Missouri Chess Bulletin

Missouri Chess Association

www.mochess.org

Mr. William H. Wright

2009 Missouri Chess Hall of Fame Inductee

Volume 36 Number Three—Summer 2009 Issue

Serving Missouri Chess Since 1973

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Missouri Chess Bulletin
~Volume 36 Number 3 - Summer 2009~

President's Podium ..... Pg 3
From the Editor ..... Pg 4
Missouri Invitational Details ..... Pg 5
Hall of Fame Inductee—William H Wright (Cover Story) ..... Pg 6
Distinguished Missouri Chess Players ..... Pg 7
Father & Son in the Metro Class ..... Pg 8-9
~Tim Nesham
Saint Louis Open Report ..... Pg 10-13
~Ray Kurczynski
U.S. Championship Wrap-up ..... Pg 14
U.S. Women's Championship Preview ..... Pg 15
Greater KC Open Tournament Report ..... Pg 16
Regional Chess Clubs ..... Pg 17
Missouri Class Championship Report ..... Pg 18-20
~Bob Howe
Sinquefield's Purchase Bobby Fischer Chess Collection ..... Pg 21
CCSCSL Team Championship Report ..... Pg 22-23
~Ray Kurczynski
Upcoming Tournaments ..... Pg 24-26
Games from Missouri Players ..... Pg 27-28
MCA Board of Director Election Results ..... Pg 29
Membership & Subscription Information/Board Contacts ..... Pg 30
State Champions ..... Pg 31
Missouri Chess Hall of Fame ..... Back Cover

The Missouri Chess Bulletin is the official publication of the Missouri Chess Association, a not-for-profit organization which promotes and supports chess in Missouri. The Missouri Chess Bulletin was founded in 1973 and is published quarterly. Unsolicited manuscripts and letters are welcome. All submissions become the property of the MCA and the MCA reserves the right to edit any and all material received for publication. Published opinions are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MCA.

- Missouri Chess Bulletin Layout and Design by Thomas R. Rehmeier -

President's Podium...

I am pleased to report that membership in the MCA is at the highest number it has been in several years. While many new players are emerging out of the Saint Louis area due to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center, several new names are joining from all corners of the state. This is certainly a good sign that the Official State Chapter is thriving. With only two months to go until the Missouri State Invitational Championship, the field is certainly taking shape. About 25 participants have qualified to play for the title of Missouri State Chess Champion. The Invitational Championship will take place in conjunction with the 2009 Missouri Open and Chess Festival in Columbia, Missouri, September 25-27. Once again several championship titles will be on the line including Blitz, Quick, and Bughouse. The big question on everyone's mind is: *Will twelve-year-old Kevin Cao, now rated almost 2150, take down 9-time State Champion and Life Master Ron—the K.C. Reaper—Luther to claim Missouri Chess' most prestigious title?* It's difficult to say at this point given that IM Michael Brooks has earned a spot in the tournament as well. However, all is still quiet out of the Kansas City area as to whether or not Missouri's highest rated (and only titled player) intends to compete this year. After his strong performance at the U.S. Championship where he came just short of earning a Grandmaster norm, I think I speak for many when I say it would be exciting to see IM Brooks play. In addition to the numerous tournaments at the chess festival, the induction of Mr. William H. Wright into the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame will take place on Saturday morning, and I encourage all to attend.

A few bulletins ago I reported that the MCA has started a program to recognize players for their tournament participation and performance. There are currently over 200 players eligible for the Player of the Year awards with Kevin Dale Johnson leading the pack with 70.0 points, playing in 15 events with Ken West in a close second with 63.5 points, having played in 19 events. Only a handful of tournaments are remaining that will earn players points to vie for the Player of the Year award. See page 5 of this bulletin for the current top 10 standings.

Thank you for your continued support of the MCA,

Thomas R. Rehmeier
President
Missouri Chess Association

Columbia Open — August 15th, 2009

Missouri State Invitational Championship Qualifier

4SS,G/75. Location: , Best Western Inn, 3100 I-70 Dr SE, Columbia, MO 65201

♔ Prizes: b/30 $150 1st, $100 2nd. $75 Each U/1800, U/1500, U/1200 Upset Prize-$25

♔ Entry Fee: $20, rec'd by 8/8, $25 onsite. Site entries Cash only please.

♔ Registration: 9-9:45am. Rounds: 10am, 1, 3:30, 6:30

MCA membership required for MO residents from $5,

Advance entries/info: Bob Howe, 636-234-7928

4403 Gage Pl. Columbia, MO 65203

(if 20+ participants, winner qualifies for MO invitational)

From The Editor

Greetings Missouri Chess Players! The Summer edition of the MCB arrives after a packed few months of chess in the state. I hope you were one of those that had a chance to enjoy the US Championships run in St. Louis this May. I was able to attend the event on several days, and truly enjoyed the atmosphere and professional environment of the event. Particularly exciting was the effort by our own top player, IM Michael Brooks. Brooks had a fantastic performance, upsetting several GM's and playing himself into the thick of things until late in the event. An unfortunate late round pairing against the tournament winner Hikaru Nakamura, and a tough last round defeat against GM Ibragimov stopped IM Brooks just shy of a grandmaster norm. His effort was enough for a healthy boost to his rating though, and hopefully will inspire him to play more in the future.

Among us mere mortals, a number of great events were available as well. Missouri Heritage events like The St. Louis Open, the Kansas City Open, and the Missouri Class Championship all were run over the last few months. A new classic may have emerged as well, with the CCSCSL running a Team Championship event that was a hit among players. All these events are covered in this bulletin, along with much more.

As always, I'd like to give a hearty thanks to those who contributed stories, games and articles to make the Missouri Chess Bulletin a worthwhile publication. Regulars like Bob Holliman, Thomas Rehmeier, and Tim Nesham have returned, and I'd like to welcome Ray Kurczynski, a new contributor this edition. Ray has given us not one, but two excellent tournament reports!
Don't forget to access the www.mochess.org website for the latest news and information, and to access all the games from this bulletin online .

Bob Howe
Editor

Congratulations to these recent Missouri Tournament Winners:

Missouri S&T Open:	James Long (AR); Nathaniel Fast & Kevin Dale Johnson Tie-2nd
Saint Louis Open:	Ron Luther
Show-Me Classic:	Open: Ron Luther Reserve: Namit Gaur
Greater KC Open:	Nathaniel Fast & David Blair (KS)
Memorial Day Open:	Daniel Todd
Emanuel Lasker Open:	Bob Holliman

Super Team Championship!

Top:	Ron Co. (Ron Luther, Bob Holliman, Nick Karlow) & Old in Chess (Andrew Witte, James McLaughlin, James Voelker)
Middle:	Han Solo (Aleksey Kazakevich, Namit Gaur, Chris Hart) & Soft in the Middle (Paul Mechem, William Thompson, Shawn Murray)
Lower:	I Don't Care (Joseph Garnier, Justin Chen, Michael Yin) & Your Face (Tony Rich, Matt Lodge, David Wiegert)

Missouri Class Championship:

Master/Expert:	Ron Luther & Kevin Cao
Class A:	Henry Cao
Class B:	Steven Rand
Class C:	Richard Fox
Class D:	Alex Esposito
Class E:	David Reitz
Novice:	Mark Johnson

2009 MISSOURI STATE INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tournament Format/Parameters:

5-round Standard Swiss, Game/120 minutes. Entry Fee: $40.00. Prizes b/20: $500-1st, $250-2nd, $125-3rd.
In the event of a tie, cash prizes will be split, but the State Champion & plaque winner will be determined by 1.) Number of Wins 2.) Head-to-Head result 3.) Best of 5 Blitz Match. In the event that more two people tie for first, Modified Median will determine the top two players to play Blitz Match.
Check-in: 10:45am Saturday, Rounds: Saturday-11:00/3:30/8:00, Sunday-10:30/3:00. Players can confirm participation at their earliest convenience, however ALL players must have their entry fee sent in no later than September 19.

Current Qualified Players (As of July 1, 2009):

Player	Rating	Hometown	Qualifying Merits
Richard Benjamin	2200	Saint Louis	Saint Louis Classical Swiss 1 Winner / Rating
John R. Boyer	1910	Arnold	Saint Louis Classical Swiss 1 Winner
IM Michael A. Brooks	2465	Raytown	Mid-America Open / Previous State Co-Champion (2003) / Rating
Kevin Y. Cao	2139	Chesterfield	Missouri Class Championship
James A. Davies	**2015**	**Saint Louis**	**Defending Missouri State Champion**
George T. Essig	2040	Fenton	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (1999)
Nathaniel S Fast	**2064**	**Jefferson City**	**Greater Kansas City Open Champion**
Zebedee Fortmann III	2040	Kansas City	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2005)
Joshua Frank	1940	Saint Louis	Saint Louis Open, 2nd Place
Isaiah Z. Gadson	1906	Saint Louis	Mid-America Open--Top Missouri Resident in U2000
Bart F. Gibbons	2256	Kansas City	Rating
Thomas G. Gossell	2213	Lee's Summit	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2003, 2005) / Rating
Kevin Guo	2001	Saint Louis	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2005)
Bob Holliman	**2218**	**Independence**	**2008 Missouri Open Co-Champion / Previous Champion / Rating**
Albert D. Howlett	1899	Florissant	Saint Louis Classical Swiss 2 Winner
Margaret Hua	**1673**	**Ballwin**	**Polgar Playoff Winner**
Robert Merton Jacobs	2100	Lake Saint Louis	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2004)
Kevin Dale Johnson	2000	Saint Charles	Saint Louis Open, 2nd Place
Kenneth E. Jones	2232	Independence	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2003) / Rating
Nicholas W. Karlow	1993	Valley Park	2008 Missouri Open Co-Champion
Charles Lawton	2358	University City	Mid-America Open / Rating
Ronald G. Luther	**2219**	**Blue Springs**	**Defending Missouri State Champion / Previous Champion / Rating**
James F. McLaughlin	2148	Saint Louis	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2005)
Waldo Odak	2050	Saint Louis	Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2003, 2004)
Daniel O. Roberts	1943	Fenton	Saint Louis Swiss VI Winner
Brad Schlosser	**1870**	**Chesterfield**	**Denker Playoff Winner**
Robert S. Taras	1895	Fenton	Saint Louis Swiss VIII Winner
James R. Voelker	**2145**	**Saint Louis**	**Saint Louis Swiss IV / Previous Missouri State Co-Champion (2004)**

* Players in **BOLD** have confirmed their participation in the tournament.
* To confirm your participation or if you believe you have been left off of this list in error please e-mail Thomas Rehmeier, 2009 Invitational Organizer <t.rehmeier@yahoo.com>

Player of the Year - Current Standings

First	**Kevin Dale Johnson (2000)**	**70.0 points**	**15 events**
Second	**Ken P. West (1231)**	**63.5 points**	**19 events**
Third	**Timothy C. Nesham (1800)**	**58.5 points**	**13 events**
Fourth	Joshua Frank (1953)	57.5 points	14 events
Fifth	William Nesham (1649)	56.5 points	14 events
Sixth	William M. Tong (1780)	55.0 points	13 events
Seventh	Steven D. Bange (1851)	53.0 points	12 events
Eighth	Jialin Ding (1896)	47.5 points	10 events
Ninth	Namit Gaur (1558)	43.5 points	10 events
Tenth	Bob Holliman (2218)	43.0 points	8 events

How Player of the Year is Scored:
2 points for attending a regular-rated tournament requiring MCA membership, 1 point for each win and 0.5 points for each draw in the event. The top three highest scorers will be honored at the 2009 Missouri Chess Festival, September 25-27 in Columbia, Missouri.
Standings current as of July 1, 2009

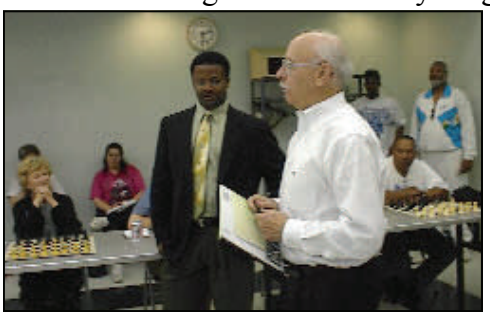
William H. Wright Inducted to Hall of Fame

The 2009 inductee into the Missouri Chess Association Hall of Fame is Mr. Bill Wright of Saint Louis. Bill is a well known figure in Missouri chess, having served and helped out in many ways over the years.

William H. (Bill) Wright was born December 9, 1928 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He grew up in the twin cities area, living there until 1946, when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Bill served honorably in the USMC, serving a tour in the Korean War. After he completed his service, Bill attended Macalester College, earning a degree in Business Administration. He took up work in the civilian field with Prudential Insurance and later for Northwest National. It was this last job that led him to being transferred from his hometown, first to Nashville Tennessee, and then to St. Louis in 1963, where he would settle in and make his new home.

Bill first learned the game of chess from a neighborhood friend in 1942, while still in Junior High. The two boys took to the game and have remained life-long friends and chess opponents until this day. In St. Louis Bill found a thriving chess community, and became a member and leader in numerous chess organizations. He was a popular member of the Capablanca Chess club. The Capablanca club was an old style "key" club, where various members had keys to the facility and the club could potentially be open and active at any time and any day. More recently, Bill was a member of the Sunset Hills Chess Club, which meets Tuesday mornings. Finally, Bill was one of the lead promoters and a founding board member of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. While many individuals worked hard to create the fantastic chess club, it was Bill Wright who was at the forefront of getting the news of the club out to the tournament chess players, advertising the club at local and statewide events, providing flyers and acting as a liaison to the MCA.

Bill's passion for the game goes far beyond just playing, he is also an avid chess collector, and teacher. Bill's collection of antique chess sets is a well known source of pride for him. A long-time member of Chess Collectors International, Bill is always on the lookout wherever he goes for a new set to add to his vast collection. He even has one set in the collection he created himself! His personal masterpiece was a set made entirely from shell casings. If there is anything that can distract Bill from the 64 squares, it's a chance to spend some time outdoors deer hunting, which made the shell casings chess set his perfect project. An ideal way to combine his two great passions!



Bill Wright with GM Maurice Ashley at a Simultaneous Exhibition in Saint Louis

Bill taught at several schools over the years, most recently at the Solomen Schechter Day School. The Schechter School has won numerous trophies and awards in the Gateway Chess League during Bill's tenure as the chess program director. Bill was also a regular site at local Scholastic events selling chess sets, pieces, bags and books. (With the exception of the November Gateway Tournament as it coincided with the start of deer season.) Hundreds of kids can recall their first tournament chess set coming from the hands of CHESS/WRIGHT.

The Missouri Chess Association is proud to honor Bill Wright with this induction into the Hall of Fame. The MCA itself has been a better and stronger organization thanks to the many years of service of Mr. Wright. Bill Wright has served as a board member, treasurer, registered agent, and tournament organizer for the organization since 1996. The Saint Louis Open, which Bill has organized for many years, is traditionally one of the largest tournaments in the state. While many directors came and went, Bill's long service stood as a pillar of stability for the MCA. He saw the organizations through good times and bad, always with his positive outlook and wealth of experience. On behalf of the MCA, and the many other groups and individuals you've helped over the years, congratulations on your induction, and thank you Bill!

MISSOURIANS ON THE USCF TOP 100 LISTS — June 2009

Overall	IM Michael Brooks (2419)	93rd
Age 18	Nick W. Karlow (1983)	42nd
	Frank H. Smith (1882)	67th
Age 17	Brad Schlosser (1883)	68th
Age 16	Henry Cao (1890)	64th
Age 13	Isaiah Gadson (1893)	32nd
Age 12	Kevin Y. Cao (1998)	12th
	Jialin Ding (1890)	28th
	William Tong (1793)	38th
Age 10	Margaret M.Hua (1599)	32nd
	Stephen Zhang (1495)	62nd
Girls Under 13	Margaret M. Hua (1590)	25th
	Keturah Gadson (1226)	90th
Girls Under 16	Joanna Gossell (1490)	77th
	Jonht Bechthold (1482)	79th
Age 65 & Over	Robert Jacobs (2100)	51st
Correspondence	Robert Jacobs (2395)	15th
	Laurence Anderson (2319)	33rd
	Harry Ingersol (2253)	55th
	Barry Walker (2210)	80th

MISSOURI'S TOP 100 PLAYERS

1	IM Michael A Brooks	2465
2	Charles Lawton	2327
3	Ronald G Luther	2233
4	Loal Davis	2224
5	Richard Benjamin	2213
6	Thomas G Gossell	2213
7	Bob Holliman	2200
8	Andrew Witte	2158
9	James F Mclaughlin	2149
10	Tomislav Juricic	2144
11	James R Voelker	2143
12	Robert Merton Jacobs	2100
13	Rich Jackson	2087
14	Kenneth P Thomas	2084
15	Craig A La Salle	2079
16	Waldo Odak	2047
17	Nathaniel S Fast	2036
18	Zebedee Fortman III	2036
19	Kevin Y Cao	2025
20	James A Davies	2023
21	Kevin Dale Johnson	2000
22	Paul Cornelison	2000
23	Daniel R Huff	1994
24	Nick W Karlow	1983
25	Jeffrey Van Order	1956
26	Joshua Frank	1953
27	Nathan Swinger	1952
28	Daniel O Roberts	1943
29	Isaiah Gadson	1938
30	Edil Karabiev	1917
31	Dwight Beasley	1916
32	Selden Trimble	1916
33	John Boyer	1910
34	Albert D Howlett	1899
35	Jialin Ding	1896
36	Mark Trevor Smith	1894
37	Daniel A Juengel	1893
38	Kenneth E Fee Jr	1893
39	Henry Cao	1890
40	Tim B. Blaco	1883
41	Brad Schlosser	1883
42	Frank H. Smith	1882
43	Robert W Cima	1876
44	Joseph A Garnier	1867
45	Renzo Herrera	1866
46	Tony Dutiel	1857
47	Steven D Bange	1851
48	Mark Cogley	1840
49	John Quimby	1830
50	Daniel J Coryea	1826

USCF July Supplement -Active in Past 12 Months

51	Alex J Marler	1808
52	Matthew Barrett	1805
53	Randy Giminez	1800
54	Stephen Landrum	1800
55	Timothy Nesham	1800
56	Jeff Eskew	1798
57	James M Clark	1788
58	Larry Darst	1785
59	Tom Epplin-Zapf	1780
60	William Tong	1780
61	Thomas R Rehmeier	1776
62	Warren D Graham	1773
63	Joe Piotrowski	1771
64	Behrooz Vakil	1765
65	Bradley J Herbst	1760
66	Tony Rich	1757
67	Daniel L Todd	1748
68	Daniel Rethemeyer	1744
69	Chris Hunt	1743
70	Allen Bishop	1733
71	Bob Howe	1731
72	Spencer Conklin	1726
73	Brian Jerauld	1725
74	Jonathan Shure	1725
75	William R Starnes	1712
76	Mike Clark	1707
77	Jacob Wilkins	1690
78	Shan Siddiqi	1683
79	Ryan D McCulla	1681
80	Roger Pagel	1675
81	Elie Solomon	1674
82	Chrisopher Castellanos	1671
83	Steven J Rand	1670
84	Joseph Conklin	1665
85	Saban Tahirovic	1655
86	William Nesham	1649
87	Edward Hollander	1647
88	Matthew Angeli	1644
89	Tyler Harris	1643
90	Raymond Kurzcynski	1643
91	Steve Korenblat	1640
92	Matt Schoen	1636
93	Vikram A Arun	1631
94	Cody B Ruggles	1629
95	Michael J Kummer	1628
96	Joseph M Brozovich	1626
97	Timothy P Boyd	1623
98	Aleksey Kazakevich	1622
99	John K Walker	1616
100	Derrick Bartotto	1614

Father and Son In the Metro Class

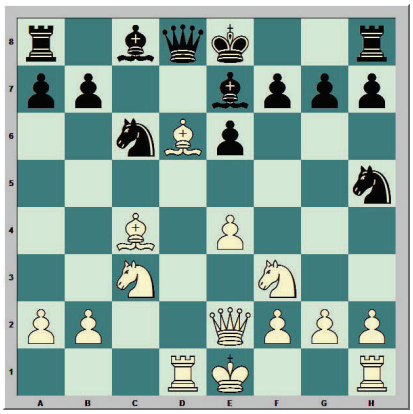
~ Tim Nesham ~

It was a strange and enjoyable tournament for me. The odds of me and my son going into the final round, tied, seemed too unlikely to consider, yet it happened. Here's some of how it happened:
In the first round I won against a tough opponent, and William had a full point bye. Nonetheless, he played an 'A' player in an "extra" game and drew.

In the second round he faced Troy Krimminger. The night before, I knew he'd see a Sicilian again, so I showed him a new weapon - the Smith-Morra Gambit. Sure some say it's busted because there is an adequate defense, and giving up a pawn may lead White to just fight for a draw, but pity the person who is not prepared! I have faced it many times on ICC and know what a difficult battle Black has if he's not prepared.

Morra Gambit
Metro Class Championship
W: William Nesham (1557)
B: Troy Krimminger (1766)

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 d6 5. Nf3 e6 6. Bc4 Be7 7. Bf4 Nc6 8. Qe2 Nf6 9. Rd1 Nh5? *{Black's King will regret this early attacking move. O-O is advisable here.}* **10. Bxd6** (diagram right) **Bxd6 11. e5 Nxe5 12. Nxe5 Nf6 13. Bb5+ Kf8 14. Nc4 a6 15. Nxd6 axb5 16. Nxf7 Kxf7 17. Rxd8 Rxd8 18. Qxb5 Bd7 19. Qb3 Bc6 20. O-O Rd2 21. f3 Rad8 22. Re1 R8d6 23. Nb5 R6d5 24. Nc7 R2d3 25. Qc4 R3d4 26. Qe2 Rd6 27. Nb5 Bxb5 28. Qxb5 Rd7 29. a4 g6 30.h3 Nh5 31. Kh2 Nf4 32. Re4! Rxe4 33. Qxd7+ 1-0**

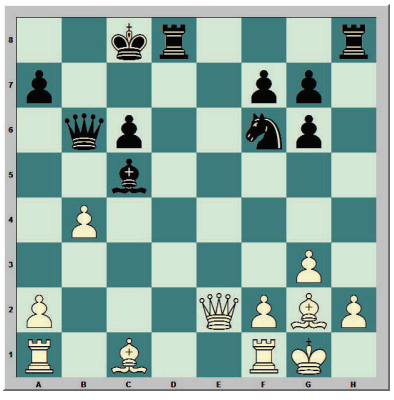


White opens the position with the direct strike 10. Bxd6!

I think 3 rounds is too short for a Championship, and I would have preferred playing on Sunday as well so more people would have had a chance to overcome a bad start. Like one of my opponents, who recently had good results against Nick Karlow, and so I wasn't looking forward to a tough battle. In my win against William Tong, I think Tong's big mistake was castling on the queenside. The King just wasn't safe there, but it's understandable why he did it as I gave him great attacking lines to my King along the h-file, except I took the initiative.

English Opening
Metro Class Championship
W: Timothy Nesham (1781)
B: William Tong (1789)

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. g3 d5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. d4 c6 6. Bg2 Bf5 7. Qb3 {Nf3 is better} **Qb6 8. Nf3 Nbd7 9. Qd1** *{Conceding my mistake, but I had a plan to go after the Bishop on f5. Doubling his pawns is not bad for him and he threatens to win a pawn.}* **Be7 10. Nh4 Bg6 11. O-O Nh5** *{Despite opening the h-file for his R, I saw that the Black K is in the middle of the board, and decided to go after it aggressively (what else? :))}* **12. Nxg6 hxg6 13. e4 dxe4 14. Nxe4 O-O-O 15. d5** *{Expose the King!}* **Ndf6 16. Nxf6 Nxf6 17. Qe2 Bc5 18. dxc6 bxc6 19. b4** (diagram) *{Trying to get rid of my own material that was in the way, but Tong plays the best by turning down the "gift".}* **Bd4 20. Rb1 Nd5 21. Bb2** *{Seems obvious now, but it wasn't easy to decide on this move.}* **Bxb2 22. Qxb2 f6 23. Qb3** *{Setting up b5; Rybka liked Qc2.}* **Rd7**



White offers a pawn for attacking lines with 19. b4

St. Peter's Quick Chess Tournament — August 22nd, 2009

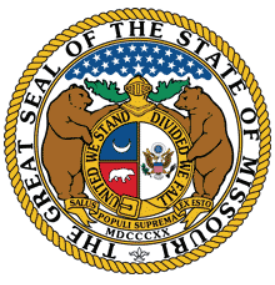
♔ 4SS,G/29 Location: B.E.S.T. Tutoring, 235 Salt Lick Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376
♔ Prizes: (b/40): $150 1st/ $100 2nd, $50 3rd
♔ Entry Fee: $12 if received by August 20th, $15 on site
♔ Registration: 11-11:30am. Rounds: 11:45, 1:15, 2:30, 4:00
USCF and MCA membership required
Entries: Signup online @ www.stpeterschess.com
or mail entry to: St. Peters Chess Club 235 Salt Lick Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376
Additional Info: Molly Nesham, 636-697-8817 <molly.nesham@gmail.com>

{Tong misses a6, and my determination to get rid of my b-pawn} **24. b5 Qxb5 25. Qa3 Qe2 26. Bf3** *{keeping the Black Q off the h-file - denying counter play}* **Qe7 27. Qa6+ Kc7 28. Rfc1 Nb4 29. Qa5+** *{Black resigned.}* **1-0**

So there we were, my son and I, facing each other in the final round. As we played through some opening moves on the Club's DGT board, the top board agreed to an early draw. I went down stairs to check the X-table and noticed no one could catch us if we drew, so I offered him a draw. Although we discussed different scenarios before the final round started, in the end I told him to just play his best. When I offered him the draw, he was not expecting it, but it can't be said it was unexpected. What's a parent to do in this situation? We shared the trophy! For the less experienced tournament players, I'd like to mention that it is wrong to agree to a draw before a round starts, and we did not agree to a draw before the round started.

Top Winners of the Missouri State Title

John Ragan	12	1948, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977
Michael A. Brooks	11	1981, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2003
Ronald G. Luther	9	1993, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008
Kenneth E. Jones	8	1976, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1993, 2003
Robert H. Steinmeyer	5	1942, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1958
Elliot Winslow	5	1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975
Doug Eckert	5	1983, 1985, 1986, 1990, 2003
Robert M. Jacobs	5	1974, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2004
Bob Holliman	4	1998, 2003, 2004, 2005
James R. Voelker	4	1994, 1998, 2004, 2005



Certain years numerous players tied for the state title in which case the winner on tie breaks was awarded the plaque; however, all players tied for 1st place were considered to be State Co-Champions.
For the complete history of Missouri State Champions, please visit http://www.jimvoelker.com/statech.html

Saint Louis Open 2009

~ Ray Kurczynski ~

On April 25th and 26th, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis played host to the 2009 Saint Louis Open. For the past few years, this prestigious event has been forced to use the rather unassuming conference room at a no frills hotel because of cost constraints. This year saw this high class event finally get the proper venue it deserves, and Missouri chess players showed their support for the change. While some common names were missing from the list of registrants, the event also managed to bring in some unfamiliar names that were hopefully dazzled by the venue and will continue to support the chess endeavors of the CCSCSL and its tournament aspirations. Overall, the event brought in 51 paid entries and the event was extremely well run by the very competent TD staff of Ed Baur and MCA president Thomas Rehmeier.

An early round of the Saint Louis Open underway.

The tournament got off to a shocking start when a few of Saint Louis' many underrated players were able to notch half point draws against some very strong consistent players. These surprises came by the way of C class player Derrick Bartotto drawing Master Bob Holliman and rising star (and recent Mid America Open Class D champion) Stephen Zhang "nicking" Expert Nick Karlow for a half point. Round 2 saw Master Bob Holliman on the wrong side of a tough draw again as Class E player Paul Yoder, who was able to finesses a half point from Mr. Holliman who was over twice his rating! The same round also saw Shimin Cao and Steve Bange manage half points against their Expert opponents. Perhaps the most shocking result came in Round 3 when Expert Nick Karlow was run down by Saint Louis chess stalwart Steve Bange. This loss convinced Mr. Karlow to call it a day, and with one horse less in the race, the fight for the Expert prize got much more intense, especially because of a TD ruling that resulted in Kevin Cao withdrawing from the event. A round 4 loss by Robert Jacobs, coupled with two earlier draws, dimmed his chances, and both Jim Voelker and Kevin Dale Johnson were able to hang on with 4.0/5.0 for a split of the Expert prize.

Players enjoy the nice view of the Central West End on a few board at the club.

The talk of the tournament had to be Master Ron Luther however, trucking it all the way down from Kansas City, to demolish the predominantly Saint Louis field with a perfect 5.0/5.0 and clear first place. Mr. Luther admittedly avoided a first round scare against youngster William Nesham, and a 4th round seemingly drawn position from Kevin Dale Johnson who may have pressed his chances too much and overreached. As most good players do, Mr. Luther persevered in the face of adversity and finished with his deserved perfect record.

C54: Giuoco Piano
Saint Louis Open
W: Ronald Luther (2200)
B: William Nesham (1607)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.c3 Bb6 7.a4 d6 8.b4 a5 9.b5 Ne7 10.Nbd2 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 g5 13.d4 g4 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.hxg4 Nxg4 16.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 17.Kh1 Nf5 18.Bxf7+ Kf8 19.Ng6+ Kxf7 20.exf5 Bxe1 21.Nxh8+ Qxh8 22.Qxe1 Re8 23.Qh4 Kg8 24.Bb2 Qe5 25.Qxh5 Qe1+ 26.Nf1 1-0

Class A was very competitive, with an incredible 12 A players duking it out! In fact, 40% of the entire field was rated class A or above, illustrating just how strong this years tournament was. Despite the large turnout, there would be no split prize as Josh Frank emerged with a respectable 4.0/5.0 performance for clear first. Four other class A players found themselves on the outside looking in, coming up a half point short. This was especially painful for Todd Plagemann and Thomas Gaul whose 3.0/4.0 last round pairing meant that a win by either would ensure them at least a tie for the class A prize. A tough battle between the two evenly matched opponents however could produce no clear cut winner, and Josh Frank benefited as neither Steve Bange nor Jeffrey Kovalic were able to upset their last round Expert opponents and were forced to settle for 3.0/5.0 scores and no share of the top prize. This win by Kevin Johnson over Steven Bange in the last round allowed him to grab the last spot to the Missouri Invitational.

Ron Luther and Jim Voelker defend their seats on the top boards against Kevin Dale Johnson and Shimin Cao.

Orangutan
Saint Louis Open
W: Steven D. Bange (1849)
B: Kevin Dale Johnson (2000)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 Nc6 6.Bb2 d5 7.Be2 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.0-0 Qe7 10.a3 Bd6 11.d3 Rad8 12.Nbd2 Rfe8 13.c4 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Ne5 15.d4 Nxc4 16.Nxc4 dxc4 17.Qc2 Ne4 18.a4 c6 19.a5 b5 20.axb6 axb6 21.Ra6 Bc7 22.Rfa1 Qh4 23.Bxe4 Qxe4 24.Qxc4 Re6 25.Ra8 Bb8 26.Qf1 b5 27.Bc3 Rg6 28.Kh1 c5 29.dxc5 b4 30.Bxb4 Qe5 31.f4 Qxe3 32.Ba5 Rf8 33.Bb6 Rc6 34.Qb5 Rcc8 35.Rf1 Bxf4 36.Rxc8 Rxc8 37.Qd7 Rf8 38.Qf5 Bb8 39.Qf3 Qe5 40.g3 Qxg3 41.Qxg3 Bxg3 42.Kg2 Be5 43.Kf3 f6 44.Rc1 Kf7 45.Ke4 Ke6 46.Kf3 Ra8 47.h4 Kd5 48.h5 Ra3+ 49.Ke2 Kc6 50.Rg1 Rg3 51.Rd1 Bc7 52.Bxc7 Kxc7 53.Rf1 h6 54.Rc1 Kc6 55.Kf2 Rg5 56.Ra1 Kxc5 57.Ra7 Kd4 58.Kf3 Ke5 59.Ra5+ Ke6 60.Ra7 f5 61.Kf4 Rg4+ 62.Kf3 Kf6 63.Rb7 Re4 64.Rb6+ Re6 65.Rb7 Re7 66.Rb1 Kg5 67.Rh1 f4 68.Rg1+ Kf5 69.Kg2 Kg4 70.Rf1 Re2+ 71.Kh1 f3 72.Rg1+ Rg2 73.Rc1 Kxh5 74.Rc6 Re2 75.Rc3 Kg4 76.Rc1 g5 77.Rg1+ Kh4 78.Rd1 g4 79.Kg1 g3 80.Rb1 Rh2 81.Rb6 g2 82.Kf2 Rh1 0-1

Class B was equally contested with 10 participants giving it their all for the top Class B prize. Shimin Cao, who had an exceptional tournament, gaining over 50 rating points en route of a tie for the top class B prize. Dennis Humphries was able to match his 3.5/5.0 performance, but both players needed help from an outside source, and that help came via Josh Frank. Unfortunately for William Tong, who was having a great tournament by all accounts, a last round pairing with the Class A Josh Frank meant that while he controlled his own destiny, a Class B win was going to prove difficult. Josh Frank's victory not only assured him a part of the Class A prize, but knocked William Tong out of contention for the Class B prize, something he could have won outright had he bested Mr. Frank.

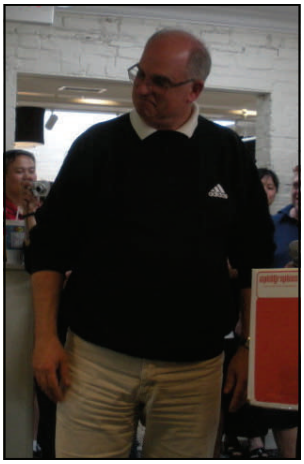
Class C may have been the toughest class of the tournament, with the combined 9 players accumulating 143 rating points for their performances! Derrick Bartotto found himself in the same exact position as William Tong, controlling his own destiny for his class prize. He was able to hold his class A opponent, Randy Gimenez, to a draw, assuring him at least a tie for the top prize. Both James Bates and Marek Ziolkowski took advantage of his result and notched W's against their last round opponents for a 3.0/5.0 finish and a 3-way tie for first place. A special congratulations goes out to Mr. Bartotto though as his above average performance netted him an impressive 74 rating points and assures all the other class C players he will soon be competing up in the B class where Mr. Bartotto certainly belongs, once his rating catches up to his skills.

Little Jason Zhou (front left) in his game against Nathan Phan.

Class D and the Under 1000 sections had the weakest turnouts. Only 3 Class D players mustered up the courage, and young-

ster Aravind Ganapathy took full advantage, garnering 2 full points for clear first. The Under 1000 section was fought out between 4 players, and it was young Jason Zhou's 2 points that assured him clear first. For his strong performance, Mr. Zhou gained 149 rating points! Jason Zhou's supplemental rating as of 05/2009 was 297 meaning that in less than 2 months, he has gained over 500 rating points. Nothing can be more intimidating than seeing Jason Zhou strut to the table and climb up into the chair. At only 7, he is a rising star and will undoubtedly be one of the strongest players in the Saint Louis scene if he continues to improve at the pace he is currently setting. In fact, his chess instructor, Joseph Garnier, says that the young Mr. Zhou has an insatiable appetite for chess and is one of the most focused and hard working students he has ever had the privilege of instructing! I predict big things for Mr. Zhou and I implore everyone to watch him closely over the next few years as he continues to improve.

While the lower Class D and Under 1000 sections had relatively disappointing turnouts, Class E showed its support, producing 9 players ready to battle it out over the 64 squares. Of those 9, an incredible 5-way split of first place occurred as 2.0/5.0 proved enough for a share of the first place prize. Both Paul Yoder and Ken West, who both had great performances, gaining 101 and 73 rating points respectively, controlled their destiny going into the last round. However, neither could notch even half a point from their tougher, and higher rated opposition, and Howard Granok, Vishal Bharadwaj, and Mindi Cao took full advantage by winning their last round games to finish with 2 points as well and a part of the first place prize. Class D's overall performance was impressive, with a net gain of 234 points for the participants! Obviously these class E players proved troublesome for their higher rated opponents throughout the tournament, and many of them will soon find themselves competing in that slim Class D section.



Mark Dolson happy to be "Better Lucky than Good"

In addition to the advertised prizes, a few special bonus prizes funded by two players were awarded at the tournament. Tom Gaul of Iowa generously donated the "Better Lucky than Good" Prize of $100 in which everyone who played in the last round put their name in a hat and one lucky name pulled out would win the cash. Nathan Phan was screaming with excitement as TD Ed Baur called his name over the P.A. thinking that he was the lucky drawing winner. What the rest of the tournament knew that Nathan didn't was he was actually being called up to draw the name and wasn't the winner. Sorry Nathan! Mark Dolson of California was the actual lucky man and went home with the $100 prize. Mr. Gaul also donated the "Better Good and Lucky" prize. For this prize, everyone who won in the last round was also entered into a random drawing for another $100. Marek Ziolkowski of the Saint Louis area happily accepted another $100 on top of his Class C prize money. Selden Trimble who was unable to attend the tournament generously donated his $50 entry fee to create the "Greatest Upset" Prize. With a final round victory over Nathan Phan rated 1070, Jason Zhou handily won the prize; posting an 840 point upset.

Tournament Directors Ed Baur (left) and Thomas Rehmeier (right)

Overall, the Saint Louis Open was a well run event that many people had numerous positive things to comment on! Players were able to have fun competitive games, and the venue was a real treat for those used to the hot and noisy "dump", as many Saint Louis Open veterans had come to affectionately refer to it as. Hopefully the Saint Louis Open will continue to be held in Saint Louis' most impressive chess venue, but for now the CCSCSL prepares itself for bigger things coming down the line. For more information about either of these events, or any other upcoming CCSCSL events, see the event calendar at www.saintlouischessclub.org/Events. Thank you to the MCA and TDs Ed Baur and Thomas Rehmeier for bringing this event to the CCSCSL and thanks to everyone who came out and made this event the colossal success that it was!

More Games from the St. Louis Open:

Reti Opening
Saint Louis Open
W: Thomas Gaul (1838)
B: James Voelker (2142)

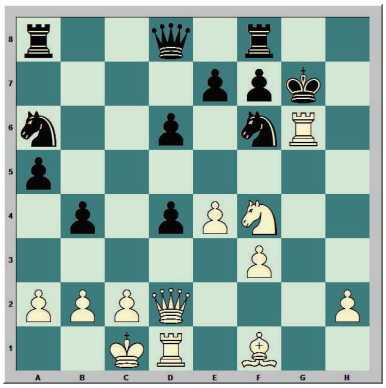
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.g4 h6 5.e3 d5 6.Rg1 c5 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Qe2 Kf8 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.h3 Ne4 11.Bxg7+ Kxg7 12.Qd3 e6 13.Nc3 Qf6 14.Ke2 Nxc3+ 15.dxc3 a5 16.Nd2 a4 17.Raf1 axb3 18.axb3 Ra2 19.f4 e5 20.g5 Qf5 21.e4 dxe4 22.Qd6 Re8 23.gxh6+ Kxh6 24.fxe5 Qh5+ 25.Ke3 Qxh3+ 26.Nf3 Rxc2 27.Rh1 Rxc3+ 28.Kd2 Rxf3 29.Rxh3+ Rxh3 30.Rxf7 Rd3+ 31.Qxd3 exd3 32.Kxd3 0-1

Semi-Slav
Saint Louis Open
W: Brad Schlosser (1887)
B: Marcus Scott (1802)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.e4 Bb4 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 b5 13.e5 Qe7 14.Bd3 Na6 15.Qe2 Nc7 16.Qe4 g6 17.Qxc6 Rb8 18.Qe4 Bb7 19.Qg4 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Nd5 21.Rfc1 Rfc8 22.Be4 Qd7 23.h4 Qd8 24.h5 gxh5 25.Qxh5 Qg5 26.Qxg5+ hxg5 27.Bxd5 exd5 28.Kf1 Rc6 29.Ke2 Rbc8 30.Kd3 Rc4 31.Rc2 Kg7 32.Rb1 a6 33.Rb4 R4c6 34.a4 bxa4 35.Rxa4 f6 36.Ra5 fxe5 37.dxe5 Kf7 38.Rxd5 Ke6 39.Ra5 Rc5 40.Rxa6+ Kxe5 41.c4 Rd8+ 42.Ke3 Rdc8 43.Ra4 R8c7 44.Rb4 Rc8 45.Kd3 Rd8+ 46.Kc3 Rdc8 47.Rd2 R8c7 48.Rd4 Rf7 49.f3 Rf4 50.Rxf4 Kxf4 51.Rb5 Rc8 52.Kd4 g4 53.fxg4 Kxg4 54.c5 Kf5 55.c6+ Ke6 56.Rc5 Kd6 57.g4 Rxc6 58.Rxc6+ Kxc6 1-0

Pirc Defense
Saint Louis Open
W: Ron Luther (2225)
B: Waldo Odak (2050)

[Annotations by Ron Luther]: This was the last round game to determine the winner of the tournament. I had never beaten Waldo. Then again, I had never had white vs him. **1.e4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4** Since the Pirc is one of the Openings that show up in my games with black, I decided to play one of the sharpest lines. While Waldo is a great natural player, theory is not his strong suit. **3...g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 Bg4** *[6...c5; 6...h6]* **7.Qd2 Bxf3?!** Black should not play this until white has played h3. **8.gxf3 c6?!** This is too slow, as now White has an open line and development advantage, which he uses to attack the black king. **9.0-0-0± a5 10.f5 Na6 11.Bh6 b5 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Rg1 b4 14.Ne2 c5 15.fxg6 hxg6 16.Nf4 cxd4? 17.Rxg6+!!** KABOOM! **17...fxg6 18.Ne6+ Kh7 19.Nxd8 Rfxd8 20.Qxd4 Nc5 21.e5! Nh5 22.Qh4 Ra7 23.Bh3 Rf8 24.Bg4 Rf4 25.exd6 Nd7 26.Qxe7+ 1-0**



Position after Rxg6!!

Nimzowitch Defense
Saint Louis Open
W: Mindi Cao (1029)
B: Ken West (1153)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxf3 5.Bxf3 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.0-0 Qh4 8.h3 Nf6 9.Qe2 c6 10.Nc3 g5 11.Qe3 Rg8 12.Be2 g4 13.Qg3 Qxg3 14.fxg3 Be7 15.Bh6 gxh3 16.gxh3 Rxg3+ 17.Kh2 Rg6 18.Bf4 0-0-0 19.Rg1 Rdg8 20.Rxg6 Nxg6 21.Be3 Kb8 22.Bc4 Nh4 23.Bxf7 Rg2+ 24.Kh1 d5 25.exd5 Bd6 26.Re1 Rh2+ 27.Kg1 Nf3+ 28.Kf1 Nxe1 29.Kxe1 Bg3+ 30.Kf1 Rxc2 31.Bc5 cxd5 32.Bd4 Ne4 33. Bxd5 Nxc3 34.bxc3 h5 35.Bg2 h4 36.Bd5 b6 37.a3 Kc7 38.Bg2 Kd6 39.Be4 Ra2 40.Bf3 Be5 41.Bxe5 Kxe5 42.Be2 Rxa3 43.c4 Ke4 44.Kg2 Ke3 45.Bf1 Ra2+ 46.Kg1 Kf3 47.Kh1 a5 48.c5 bxc5 49.Bc4 Ra1+ 50.Kh2 Kf2 51.Bf1 Kxf1 52.Kh1 Kf2+ 53.Kh2 Ke3 54.Kg2 c4 55.Kh2 c3 56.Kg2 Ra2+ 57.Kf1 c2 58.Ke1 c1Q# 0-1

Accelerated Dragon
Saint Louis Open
W: Margaret Hua (1614)
B: Carl Dolson (1454)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0-0 Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Nxd4 12.g4 Qb6 13.Qe4 Be6 14.h4 Rfd8 15.Bd3 Nc6 16.h5 Bxa2 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Rh3 Nb4 19.Rdh1 Nxd3+ 20.cxd3 e6 21.g5 Rd4 22.Qe2 Qc7 23.Qf1 Rad8 24.Kc2 b5 25.Rh7 Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Bb3+ 27.Kxb3 Rxd3 28.R7h2 a5 29.Ka2 Qc4+ 30.Kb1 Qb3 31.Rc2 Bxc3 32.Rhc1 b4 33.f4 Rd2 34.Rxd2 Bxd2 35.Rc2 Bxf4 36.Rf2 Be5 37.Ka1 a4 38.Kb1 a3 39.Rd2 Bxb2 40.Rd8+ Kg7 41.Rg8+ Kh7 42.Rh8+ Bxh8+ 43.Kc1 a2 44.Kd2 a1Q 45.Ke2 Qaa2+ 46.Ke1 Qbb1# 0-1

London System
Saint Louis Open
W: Thomas Gaul (1838)
B: Todd Plagemann (1936)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.d4 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 c6 9.c4 Nbd7 10.0-0 e5 11.Nd2 Re8 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Qc2 Nxf3+ 14.Nxf3 Qc7 15.Rac1 Rad8 16.Rfd1 Ne4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rd4 Qe7 19.Nd2 Nxd2 20.Qxd2 Qe5 21.Rd1 Re6 22.b4 f5 23.b5 Qc5 24.Qb2 Kg8 25.Qb3 Re7 26.a4 Kg7 27.Qc3 Kg8 28.Qb3 Rg7 29.Qc3 ½-½

U.S. Championship Wrap-Up

U.S. Championship Wrap-Up

Hikaru Nakamura, 21, of White Plains, N.Y., won the the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship after winning in the ninth and final round at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. Second-seeded Nakamura, who also won the title in 2004, when he was just 16, won the venerable 164-year-old title and first prize of $40,000 ($35,000, plus a $5,000 outright winner's bonus) after beating Josh Friedel, of New York. Nakamura finished with seven points over nine games, and never lost a game. He was assured the title after 17-year-old Robert Hess, of New York, managed only a draw in his last round game with Varuzhan Akobian, of North Hollywood, California. Hess and Nakamura entered the final round tied with six points. Nakamura, who as a junior broke every age-group record set by Bobby Fischer, except that of youngest U.S. champion (Fischer did this at age 14), played confident and assured over the 10 days of tense competition.

Championship Sponsor Rex Sinquefield presents GM Hikaru Nakamura, newly crowned U.S. Champion a check for $40,000 at the closing ceremony. (Photo Betsy Dynako)

"I was very happy with my play throughout and relieved to have won the title again," said Nakamura moments after being confirmed champion. "This is a title that means so much to me and the U.S. chess community -- and I have to thank the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis for putting on such a memorable championship. Winning the second title feels better to me than the first."

Nakamura was officially crowned the 2009 U.S. chess champion Sunday evening after the final round by championship sponsor Rex Sinquefield -- founder of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center -- during a closing ceremony at the Zodiac Room of the Chase Park Hotel in St. Louis' trendy Central West End.

To view round-by-round video commentary, photos, interviews, and to download all of the games from the tournament, please visit www.uschesschamps.com.

Saint Louis' own Chess Café Columnist Steve Goldberg has great coverage of the U.S. Championship including recaps and game analysis on his scholastic chess blog: www.scholasticchess.blogspot.com

How did Missouri's Representatives do?

- International Master Michael Brooks finished the tournament with 4 points, scoring some impressive wins over GMs Shabalov and Becerra, IM Robson, and drawing GM Benjamin and IM Sevillano.

- National Master Charles Lawton scored draws against IM Irina Krush and IM Sam Shankland. Lawton established his first FIDE rating at 2117.

After the closing ceremonies, C.C.S.C.S.L. Board Member Jim Voelker & MCA President Thomas Rehmeier posed with several top GMs including the highest rated player in the United States, Grandmaster Gata Kamsky

U.S. Women's Championship

The 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Championship will be held from October 2 through 12 at the extravagant Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which opened in July 2008. This is the second national championship event that the club has had the honor of hosting. The CCSCSL also played host to the United States Championship that concluded this past May.

The U.S. Women's Chess Championship dates back to 1937. The tournament is a 9-round event using the Round Robin pairing system, in which every player plays every other player and the highest score wins. Time controls will be the classical 40 moves in two hours, with the remaining moves in one hour. There will also be a 5-second increment per move.

Invitations will be sent to the top nine U.S. women players by ranking based on the August 2009 United States Chess Federation rating list. An invitation will also be sent to the defending champion, Olympic gold medalist Anna Zatonskih. The championship will have a purse of $64,000, with $15,000 awarded to the winner, the highest first prize in its history. In case of even scores, prize funds will be evenly divided between winners.

Please visit www.saintlouischessclub.org for more information on the 2009 Women's Championship.

Reigning U.S. Women's Champion
WGM Anna Zatonskih

CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER of Saint Louis

2007 U.S. Women's Champion
IM Irina Krush

Dog Days Open — August 8th, 2009

4SS,G/60. Location: Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis,
4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108

- Prizes: PF (b/40): $750: $100 1st/ $25 2nd in each M/X, A, B, C, D, U1200.
- Entry Fee: $25, $20 for annual members of the club.
- Registration: 9-9:50am. Rounds: 10am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:30

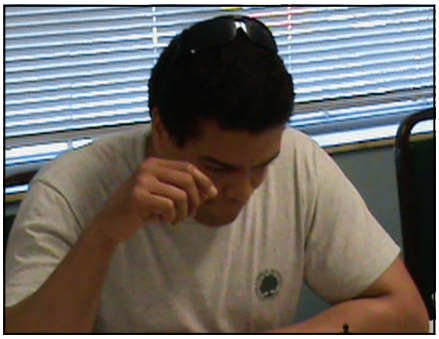
MCA membership required for MO residents from $5, OSA
Entries: 4657 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108. 314-361-CHESS.
Info: Tony Rich <trich@saintlouischessclub.org> or visit www.saintlouischessclub.org.

The Greater KC Open

The Greater Kansas City Open was held May 30th at "The Plex" at Noland Road Baptist Church. 26 Players contested for guaranteed prizes based only on each individuals score. Nathaniel Fast posted a perfect 4-0 along with recent Pittsburgh (Penguins) transplant David Blair. Fast's result included a nice win over 9-time State Champ Ron Luther who finished with 3 along with Darius Masuhud, Tim Blaco, *That* Andrew Latham, and Joanna Gossell. Rounding out the prize winners was recent Missouri ex-pat Rich Jackson who escaped the East Coast and has returned to the sane life of Missouri. In this event a 4-0 paid $80, 3-1 $20 and 2.5 $10. As top Missourian, Nathaniel Fast also earned a spot in the 2009 Invitational Championship. The event was directed by Tony Dutiel and organized by Bob Holliman.

No.	Name	Rate	Pts	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4
1	Fast, Nathaniel S	2014	4.0	W17	W12	W5	W3
2	Blair, David A	1927	4.0	W20	W14	W6	W9
3	Luther, Ronald G	2204	3.0	W16	W11	W4	L1
4	Masuhud, Darius	1897	3.0	W21	W13	L3	W12
5	Blaco, Tim B	1886	3.0	W22	W25	L1	W14
6	Latham, Andrew	1582	3.0	W26	W8	L2	W11
7	Gossell, Joanna G	1490	3.0	L8	W26	W25	W17
8	Jackson, Rich	2108	2.5	W7	L6	D17	W16
9	Larson, Robert E	1982	2.0	L13	W23	W20	L2
10	Giminez, Randy	1959	2.0	L23	L21	W18	W22
11	Gaul, Thomas J	1846	2.0	W18	L3	W13	L6
12	Cheng, Tony R	1582	2.0	W15	L1	W21	L4
13	Bodenheimer, Karl	1526	2.0	W9	L4	L11	W23
14	Bowman, Ralph E	1500	2.0	W24	L2	W22	L5
15	Lemon, Ansar	nnnn	2.0	L12	L17	W24	W21
16	Bates, James O	1499	1.5	L3	D18	W23	L8
17	Armenta, C J	1426	1.5	L1	W15	D8	L7
18	Tran, Thomas K	1235	1.5	L11	D16	L10	W25
19	Pattrick, Earney R	1541	1.0	L25	L22	W26	-U-
20	Forte, Richard	1500	1.0	L2	W24	L9	-U-
21	Esposito, Alex V	1367	1.0	L4	W10	L12	L15
22	Hall, Alex	1268	1.0	L5	W19	L14	L10
23	Stebbins, Joel N	1208	1.0	W10	L9	L16	L13
24	Sutton, John B	nnnn	1.0	L14	L20	L15	W26
25	Smith, Carson T	nnnn	1.0	W19	L5	L7	L18
26	Lemon, Zoe	nnnn	0.0	L6	L7	L19	L24

Tournament Co-Champion Nathaniel Fast



Co-Champion David Blair

Local Expert Rich Jackson

MCA Past President Tim Blaco

Regional Chess Clubs

SAINT LOUIS AREA CLUBS :

Delmar Loop Chess Club: Location: St. Louis Bread Company 6630 Delmar Ave. (U-City) Chess played every night 6-9pm Most players come on weekends. Contact: Joseph Garnier at <chessoholic@sbcglobal.net>

Indian Trails Branch Library: Location: St. Louis County Library 8400 Delport Drive (314) 428-5424 Meets: Tuesdays 3:30 PM. Contact:any library employee

Saint Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center: 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis. For club information and tournament schedule, see http://saintlouischessclub.org, (314) 361-CHESS or contact Tony Rich, <trich@saintlouischessclub.org>, Mon-closed, T-W 3-10pm,, Th-F 3-11pm, Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-10pm

Saint Peters Chess Club: Location: St. Peters. 235 Salt Lick Road, St. Peters. Meets: Friday nights starting at 6pm. Contact: Tim Nesham at <tim.nesham@gmail.com>

Sunset Hills Parks & Recreation Activities Center: 12450 West Watson Road, Tuesday 10am-2pm. (314) 842-7265

KANSAS CITY AREA CLUBS:

Heart of America Chess Association: Location: Noland Baptist Church 4505 S Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64055. Meets: Friday Nights 7-11pm. There are no fees or charges to play, this club is for the community. Contact: Bob Holliman at (816) 836-0568 or <chess_entries@comcast.net>

Kansas City (KS) Public Library: Location: 625 Minnesota, Kansas City KS. Meets: Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 PM Contact: Brooke Leavitt at (913) 551-3280

The Chess Club: Location: 7667 NW Prairie View Rd, Kansas City, MO 64151. Website: http://www.powerpawn.net

Westport Chess Club: Location: Westport Flea Market at 817 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111 (just east of the intersection of SW Trafficway and Westport Rd.) year-round basis. Tuesday's 6:30-11:00 PM $2 fee adults, $1 under 18 Contact: Bill Mendus <wmendus@swbell.net>

CLUBS IN OTHER AREAS OF MISSOURI:

Columbia -- University of Missouri Chess Club: Location: Memorial Union (518 Hitt Street) Room S203 May-August: Lakota's Coffee, 24 S. Ninth St. Mondays 7-10pm. Contact: Charles Ward at <czar8196@tranquility.net> Website: http://www.students.missouri.edu/~muchess

Jefferson City -- Jefferson City Chess Club: http://jcchess.org/ Contact Tim Boyd—tboyd66@embarqmail.com or (573) 635-6299.

Joplin -- Joplin Chess Club: http://www.joplinchess.org Contact Martin Stahl—martin.stahl@joplinchess.org

Mineral Area Chess Club: Location: Tourist Center on the Mineral Area College Campus in Park Hills. Monday Nights from 7-9pm. Contact: James Lyon at (573) 756-6009, or by e-mail at <jaaalyon@sbcglobal.net>

Rolla -- MS&T Chess Club: Location: Havener Center, Walnut Room, 1346 N. Bishop Ave., Rolla, MO 65401. Meets: Wednesdays 7 PM. Student President: Thomas Rehmeier at <trrthf@mst.edu> Info: Selden Trimble at <strimble@rollanet.org>

Springfield -- MO State University Chess Club: Location: Plaster Student Union, room 317-A. Meeting hours: Mondays 7-10pm. Contact: Nick Beatty at <Nbeatty@missouristate.edu>
Website: http://www.organizations.missouristate.edu/chess

Springfield -- Springfield Park Board Chess Club: Location:Southside Senior Center 2215 S. Fremont Ave., Springfield, MO Meets: Friday 6:30 to 11PM USCF-rated events. Contact: Jim Baumlin at (417) 831-6585
Website: http://www.geocities.com/SpringfieldChessClub

Missouri Class Championships

~ Bob Howe ~

A solid turnout of 56 players came together for the 2009 edition of the Missouri Class Championships. Players from all corners of Missouri as well as six other states competed in the event held in Columbia.

The seven sections were all hard fought and closely contested affairs, with the results in doubt until the last games finished.

The E/U1000 section turned into a highly competitive division. (E class had a small turnout, so the sections were merged for pairing) After day one, Martin Stahl of Joplin stood at the top of the division, as one of only three players left in the tournament at 3-0. His lead would dwindle after a defeat in round four, leading to an unusual situation in the E class. Two players, Stahl and David Reitz, led with 3 pts, while the other two players, Jason Zhou and Rohit Rao were one point back. Zhou would manage to defeat Stahl, and Rao won his game as well, making all four players in E class tied with 3 pts! Only Reitz's game was still going, which would settle if he was the sole winner, or leave a four way tie. David's game ended up as an imbalanced, difficult game, with both players having winning chances at some point. Reitz's opponent, a young underrated player named Devon Stahl, offered a draw in the middlegame when he was better, but David, having no idea that a draw secured the state title and the cash, declined the draw in a worse position! After nearly two more hours of play, a draw was finally the result anyway, and Reitz was stunned to find that a half point had given him the prize. David was shocked at himself for refusing the draw offers and excited to have won a state title. Reitz was coming off a disastrous result at his last tournament, so hadn't even been considering winning this event. Just happy to be playing well, he hadn't even glanced at the crosstables, so had no idea he was playing for the title or which of his opponents games he should watch. In the end it made little difference, and the gentleman from St. Louis left with the E class state title.

Jacob Amann v. Peter Harris (foreground)
Joanna Gossell v. Stephen Zhang (background)

Meanwhile, Mark Johnson of Jefferson City won a nice game in the last round to finish tied for first place in the combined section, and a full point ahead of the next score in the U/1000 division. Mark lost a frustrating game in round three to the youngster Jason Zhou, but it would be his only loss on the way to improving his rating and winning the Novice Champion Plaque.

The Class D section saw the leaders meet in round three, where Alex Esposito and defending D class champion Stephen Easton would draw their hard fought game. This would leave it up to their closest pursuers to try to knock off the leaders in the two rounds on Sunday. Esposito would not be slowed on Sunday, and finished the tournament with an impressive 4.5 / 5. This made him not only the highest score in his section, but in the whole event! Meanwhile Easton would win both his games Sunday too, but a 2nd round draw with Charlie Ward had put him a half point behind Esposito, and that would make the difference, leaving the defending champion in second place. Esposito, a high school player from Kansas City, was one of three members of the state championship Rockhurst HS team that ran up a perfect score in Jefferson City this year to attend the event. All three players performed well in the, with Alex being one of two who would win a personal state title .

Class C was again a large class, and as often happens in these class events, it was a bloodfest. Only St. Louis player Richard Fox, was able to even make it past round 2 unscathed, and he would hold that mark as one only three players with a perfect score after day one. Richard had a great performance a few years ago on Saturday at this event, only to stumble on the second day and miss out of the title. This must have weighed on his mind, after round four when he fell from the ranks of the undefeated when he was beaten by Doug Howe. To make matters worse, Richard had to face a long grinding loss in the game, knowing he had missed a simple win in the middlegame! This led to a tense round five matchup between Fox and Missouri legend Ed Baur. Baur would win the exchange in the middlegame, but Fox's pieces were clearly more active, and it become a question of if his initiative and attack would come through or if Baur's material advantage would tell in the endgame. No endgame would be reached, as Fox was able to crash through and win the game, giving him 4 points and at least a share of the title. The game ended quickly, but Fox was now left with his fate out of his hands, as he waited on the result of Doug Howe's game, to see if he would win the event outright, or be tied and left to the whims of tiebreaks. Richard was genuinely excited about the prospect of being a state champion and was pacing the halls of the hotel, anxiously awaiting the long running Howe game to finish. Howe's game at first looked like it would end quickly, as he went down a pawn and the exchange after a big attack by his opponent Joanna Gossell, but it wasn't meant to be, as Doug created threats and defended tenaciously with the lesser material. Still, Joanna played precisely and patiently, avoiding each pitfall to slowly but surely trade down until she took the point. This gave Gossell clear second in the section, and left Fox in sole first. An excited and pleased Richard Fox was the new Class C champion!

Master/Expert Co-Champion Kevin Cao

B-Class Winner Jennifer Ishee (Laupp) and Margaret Hua focusing hard in round 4.

Class B looked to likely be a small section, as it didn't have a single pre-registered entrant, but proving once again that you can't ever count on pre-registration as an indicator, the section ended up as the third largest, with 10 players! The division was won by an out of state player, but one quite familiar to Missourians, Jennifer Ishee (formerly Laupp). The recently married Ishee (congratulations Jennifer!) is a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis, and has competed in local events for years. Since she is now officially a Tennessee resident, the state title went to the Rockhurst High School player Steven Rand, who nicked Ishee for a draw in round three, and finished the tournament undefeated and a half point behind the leader. This made two state titles for the three Rockhurst players! The third RHS player, Andrew Latham ended with an even score playing up a section, leaving me to wonder if had he played in his own class, if the young players could have possibly gone three for three.

In Class A, the title was won by the very strong high school player Henry Cao, when he overtook the section leader Thomas Rehmeier in a head-to-head battle in the final round. Henry adds this Class title to the growing collection he has gathered, including several scholastic Championships and a state bughouse championship. Congratulations Henry!

Kevin Johnson, James Ellis, Thomas Rehmeier, and James Long in the M/X/A section

The Master/Expert section was well represented this year, with 12 entrants. Combined with A class, it made a strong field of 16 players competing in the top section. Ron Luther and Kevin Johnson faced off last year in the final round for the top class title, but a rematch seemed unlikely this year as both faced surprise upset defeats in the first round by scholastic players. Kevin Cao, who has put together several strong performances recently to push his rating close to 2100 won an exchange, then the full point on the top board against state champ Luther. Meanwhile 11-year old Margaret Hua got a great start to her tournament by defeating KDJ in an interesting finish.

Kevin's victory over Ron was a sign of things too come, as Kevin continued to win game after game, defeating two experts and two masters in the first four rounds. Kevin's performance drew attention from everyone, and it appeared the title was his for the taking. However, Kevin decided to call it a day after round four, as his excellent performance had boasted his rating a sensational 68 points! This appeared to have given Kevin enough points to qualify for the prestigious America's Team, so he reluctantly gave up on the state title for a chance at a special national award.

This opened the door for Ron Luther and James Long, as each were one point behind and would match up on board one with a chance for a share of first. The game didn't disappoint! It was a tension filled tactical affair, which lasted deep in to the time control until it was the last game remaining in the tournament.

Pirc Defense: Classical System
Missouri Class Championship
W: James Long (2020)
B: Ron Luther (2216)

[Annotations by R. Luther] This was the last round game. Since Kevin Cao had withdrawn I had to win with black to at least share the title and have a chance at the plaque. Before the game Kevin's dad said that they wanted me to have a chance at 3-peating the class title. While he may have been joking I was not! **1.e4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 h6 7.c3 Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.Nf1 Qd7 11.Ne3 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Nh4?! f4 14.Nf1 Bf6?** [14...fxg3] **15.Nf3 Ng6** [15...fxg3] **16.Qe2 Bf5?!** [16...Rae8!] **17.h4 Rae8 18.N1h2 d5** [18...fxg3!] **19.fxg3 Bg7** [19...Qh7] **19.h5 e4 20.dxe4 dxe4 21.Qc4+ Kg7 22.hxg6 exf3 23.Rxe8 Rxe8 24.Nxf3 fxg3 25.fxg3 Bxg6 26.Bf4** Here he offered a draw. There was also about a $100 difference between a draw or tying for 1st. Plus he was low on time. Therefore...I gambled! **26...Re4 27.Qf1 Qf5 28.Nh4 Qc5+ 29.Kh2 Bxh4 30.Bxe4 Bxg3+ 31.Kxg3 Bxe4 32.Qe2** [32.Bxh6+!!] **32...Bg6 33.Rd1 h5 34.Rd7+ Kf6!?** This one caused a look of awe from one of the spectators. However it does avoid mate, and activates the king should there be massive exchanges to a Bishop vs. Knight ending. **35.Qf2?!** [35.Rxc7] **35...h4+ 36.Kg2 Be4+ 37.Kg1 Qh5 38.Bxc7+ Bf5 39.Qf4 Qg6+ 40.Kh1 Qh5 41.Rd6+** [41.Qd6+!] **41...Kg7 42.Rd5** [42.Bd8] **42...Ne7 43.Rd2 Ng6 44.Rg2 h3 45.Qd4+ Kh7 46.Rf2 Nh4 47.Bf4** He again offered a draw, he also had less than 3 mins left. **47...Qg6 48.Kh2 48...Nf3+!!** Jackpot! Whew!!! **0-1**

Thank you to everyone who attended and congratulations to our new class champions!

Fox (C) - Rand (B) - Cao (A) - Johnson (Novice) Esposito (D) - Reitz (E) - Luther (Master/Expert)

Sinquefields Purchase Bobby Fischer's Chess Collection

For years there have been rumors of a valuable collection of Bobby Fischer's personal books and notes available for purchase. The collection has appeared a few times on eBay, always disappearing again within a few days. This time however, the collection didn't come up on a web auction placed by an anonymous seller, but being offered by a reputable auction house. The collection includes Fischer's library of chess books, personal manuscripts, and a number of notebooks, periodicals, and diskettes.

Philanthropist, and chess collector Rex Sinquefield.

The auction was won by none other than Missouri's own Rex Sinquefield, who has stated he plans to make the collection available to scholars. Hopefully at least a few pieces of the collection will make its way to a display at the Chess Club for everyone to enjoy. Below is the official Press Release:

ST. LOUIS, JUNE 11 — Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield have purchased the chess library of the legendary Bobby Fischer, including notebooks he prepared for his 1972 World Championship match with Boris Spassky. The Sinquefields acquired the collection through San Francisco-based auction house, Bonhams and Butterfields.

A small sampling of the Eleventh World Champion's chess books, manuscripts, and library..

"I am thrilled to have this collection from arguably the greatest chess player in history," said Rex Sinquefield, founder and board president of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. "I have been a lifelong fan of Bobby Fischer."

The reclusive Fischer died in January 2008 at age 64. The collection purchased by the Sinquefields includes 320 books on chess; about 400 issues of chess-related periodicals; three sets of proofs for Fischer's 1969 book, "My 60 Memorable Games"; and a number of bound volumes detailing the match histories of several chess masters, including Spassky.

The Spassky-related works centers on Fischer's preparation for his historic 1972 match, won by Fischer. The victory ended 24 years of Soviet domination of the World Championship.

The collection also includes a copy of "Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess," with a note indicating that Fischer planned on suing the publishers.

Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield, who are retired investment company executives, said they weren't sure of their plans with the Fischer collection. "I am thinking right now about how to display it and to make it available to scholars," Rex said.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center was founded in 2007 with funding from the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation. It recently hosted the 2009 U.S. Chess Championship, which was won by Hikaru Nakamura. The center also will host the 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Championship from Oct. 2 to Oct. 12. The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization. For more information, please visit www.saintlouischessclub.org. Media contact: Laura Slay, 314-504-0081, lslay@slayandassociates.com

CCSCSL Super Team Championship

~ Ray Kurczynski ~

On June 20th, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis held its first annual team championship. For 3 to 4 weeks leading up to the event, there appeared to be a lot of buzz regarding the tournament. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves whether speculating on teams that might show up or discussing creative team names. The turnout matched the hype as 54 players braved the Saint Louis heat to take part in the event. Eighteen teams total, comprised of three players per team, arrived to battle it out for money and the chance to be the first ever CCSCSL Team Champion.

Team (AC) Asian Connection
Kevin Cao, Henry Cao, and Jason Zhou

Going into the event, everyone had the dynamic tandem of Ron Luther, Bob Holliman, and Nick Karlow as the early favorites to contend for the overall prize. This forced many players to rethink their teaming strategies and ultimately created some oddly paired teams that were trying to slide slightly under the cumulative Under 4800 section. The shocker of the tournament might have occurred before one pawn even moved across the board. Ron Co. (as the threesome of Ron, Bob, and Nick came to known as) entered the event as the second highest rated team! Board member Jim Voelker had amassed a team of old school talent that included himself, James McLaughlin, and Andrew Witte. They would whimsically refer to themselves as "Old in Chess" for this event, parodying the name of the internationally popular chess magazine "New In Chess". Other satirical names included Preparation H-File, Team AC (Asian Connection), and The 3-Gambiteers.

Team I Don't Care
Joe Garnier, Justin Chen, and Michael Yin

With the favorites so clearly visible in the open section, some teams chose to go top heavy, looking for the substantially underrated scholastic players to round them out under the 1600-average mark. Others chose to go average across the board, hoping to refute the previous tactic by winning on the lower boards and trusting their top board could hold his own. Both options met with some success and some failure. In the open section, the results couldn't have played out better as Ron Co. and Old In Chess found themselves on a collision course in the final round of the tournament. Nick Karlow turned in an early draw against Jim Voelker, while Bob Holliman out maneuvered his rusty opponent James McLaughlin giving Ron Co. a 1.5-.5 lead with one board left to play. Amazingly, Andy Witte, recovering from a dismal 1-2 start, held back Ron Luther and secured the full point. This resulted in a draw and left both teams tied at the top with 3.5/4.0 performances and equal shares of the $500 overall prize. Ulti-

Team Your Face
Tony Rich, Matt Lodge, and David Wiegert

CCSCSL Team Champions: Ron Co.
Bob Holliman, Nick Karlow, and Ron Luther

mately though, Andy Witte's slow start would cost Old In Chess the title as Ron Co. beat them out by a full point in the first set of tiebreakers (total individual scores) to claim the official title of 2009 CCSCSL Team Champions.

In the Under 4800 section, we saw two very different teams tie for the prize. Team Soft in the Middle, comprised of Paul Mechem, Bill Thompson, and Shawn Murray attempted to exploit the top heavy plus underrated bottom board formula. A respectable 2.5/4.0 performance proved how effective such a tactic could be. However, to give props to the USCF rating system, which is the ultimate equalizer, Team Han Solo, spearheaded by C player Aleksey Kazakevich, proved a team of 3 1600 strength players could perform just as well. With C players Chris Hart and Namit Gaur joining him, Aleksey's team was also able to muster a 2.5/4.0 performance to split the $400 under 4800 prize fund. In the ultimate twist of strategy, Soft in the Middle's top-heavy tactic would not pay off as Team Han Solo would take the trophies and the title in second tiebreakers.

U4800 Champions: Han Solo
Aleksey Kazakevich, Chris Hart, & Namit Gaur

To show some love for the lower rated teams that made it out for the event, but were severely out rated, the fantastic turnout allowed the club to return some of the "profits" which resulted in an additional $120 prize fund for an U/ 4200 section. This pleased the teams that had shown up to support the event but didn't necessarily have high hopes of winning their section. Amazingly, this prize was split as well as Team Your Face, made up of CCSCSL Executive Director Tony Rich, employee Matt Lodge, and Matt Wiegert tied with Team I Don't Care. Team IDC, which featured a very top-heavy approach, contained CCSCSL Blitz Champion Joseph Garnier competing with two of his top students, Justin Chen and Michael Yin. Both teams managed to garner 1.5/4.0 points and each team member was rewarded with their $20 entry fee returned for their efforts.

Team Championship Final Showdown
Old in Chess vs. Ron Co.

After the event ended, the CCSCSL decided to take advantage of the large turnout and offered a 6 round blitz tournament for any competitors that were thirsty for more action. The Super Team Open Blitz ended up featuring 18 players. Joseph Garnier won the tournament with 5.0/6. Bill Thompson's 3.0/6 secured the bottom section's prize. In fact, both Joe and Bill won prizes in both events. Congrats to them on an exceptional day of chess!

Overall everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and the CCSCSL Super Team Championships will definitely be back and be bigger next year. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the event and to those who stuck around to play in the blitz tournament as well. The blitz players were the first to be graced with the fantastic news that the weekly blitz tournaments held at the CCSCSL would be moving to Saturday evenings starting in August. We hope to see everyone at future CCSCSL events and thanks again to everyone who made this and all of our tournaments so successful. To view the complete schedule of events for the CCSCSL please visit www.saintlouischessclub.org/Events.

UPCOMING

July 18th—St. Louis Premiere & Amateur - St. Louis
Two sections, Premiere & Amateur (U 1600) 5SS G/60, Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108. Entry Fee: $40, $30 for annual members. MCA Membership req'd, from $5. Prizes: (b/40) each section: $225-150-100-75-50 (1st-5th), Registration: 9-9:50, Rds: 10, 12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7. One 1/2pt bye if declared before rd 1. Info: 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org.

August 1st-2nd Springfield August - Springfield
4SS, G/100. Southside Senior Center, 2215 South Fremont Ave, Springfield, MO 65804. Registration: 9:30-9:45am. Rd Times: Sat: 10, 2, 6, Sunday: noon. Entry Fee: $20 rec'd by 7/24, $25 on site. Site entries cash only. Registration: 9:30-9:45am. Prizes: $530 b/30: $150 1st, $70 each U/2000, U/1700, U/1400, U/1000+unr, $30 top female. Half pt byes avail. MCA required, OSA, available on site from $5. Info: Joseph Brozovich, 417-882-3992. <jmbroz@att.net> *(if 20+ participants, winner qualifies for the state invitational)*

August 8th—Dog Days Open - St. Louis
St. Louis 4SS, G/60, Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108. EF: $25, $20 for annual members. MCA Membership Req'd from $5. OSA. Prizes: (b/40): $750: $100 1st/ $25 2nd in each M/X, A, B, C, D, U1200. Reg: 9 - 9:50. Rds: 10, 12:15, 2:30, 4:30. One 1/2 pt bye if declared before round 1. Entries: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org

August 15th—Columbia Open - Columbia
4SS, G/75; Best Western Inn, 3100 I-70 Dr SE, Columbia, MO 65201; Prizes: $500 b/30: $150 1st, $100 2nd, $75 each U1800, U1500, U1200, Upset prize, $25. Reg: 9-9:45am ; Round times: 10, 1, 3:30, 6:30 Entry Fee: $20 rec'd by 8/8, $25 on site. Site entries cash only. Max 1 half pt bye; MCA required, available on site from $5. Entries/Info: Bob Howe, 4403 Gage Pl. Columbia, MO 65203. 636-234-7928. <bdhowe@yahoo.com> *(If 20+ participants, winner qualifies for MO Invitational)*

August 22nd—St. Peters Quick Chess - St. Peters
4SS, G/29. B.E.S.T. Tutoring, 235 Salt Lick Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376. Registration 11 to 11:30am. Rounds start at 11:45am, 1:15pm, 2:30pm and 4pm. Prizes: $150 for 1st, $100 to 2nd, and $50 to 3rd based on 40 entries. EF: $12 if received by August 20, $15 on site. USCF and MCA membership required. Contact: Molly Nesham. 636-697-8817. <molly.nesham@gmail.com> Signup online at www.stpeterschess.com, mail entry to: St. Peters Chess Club, 235 Salt Lick Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376

August 22nd—Joplin Summer Open - Joplin
5SS, G/60. Dalton-Killinger Construction, 1301 W 4th St, Joplin, MO 64801. USCF rated, Two sections (based on average rating) Entry fee: $10 if pre-registered, $15 at site. Prizes: Based on total entries, at least 50% of total entry fees Reg**:** Advance Registration requested. Onsite reg at 8am. First round at 9am. Entry fees may be paid in cash on August 22nd, or checks (payable to Martin Stahl) can be mailed. All players must be current USCF members by 8/21 and current through 8/22. Registration information: <martin.stahl@joplinchess.org> or 417-781-9091.

August 29th—Jose Capablanca Open - Columbia
3SS, G/75. Memorial Union room N208, 518 Hitt St., Columbia, MO. Directions: From I-70 exit 126, south on Providence, east on Rollins, north on Hitt. Entry fee: $1, NO PRIZES-Just the satisfaction of playing well. Reg: 9:30-10:15. Rds: 10:30-1:15-4:00. Entries/Info: Charles Ward, 2400 Cimarron Drive, Columbia, MO 65203, 573-443-6685 <czar8196@tranquility.net>

September 5th-6th—St. Louis District Championship - St. Louis *20 Grand Prix Points!*
5SS, G/120, Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108. EF: $60, $50 for annual members of the club. MCA Membership Req'd from $5. OSA. Prize Fund: Guaranteed! $2500: 1st overall $650, 2nd overall $475, 1st each A, B, C, D, U1200 $275. Reg: 9-9:50, Rds: Sat 10, 2, 6 Sun 10, 2. Accelerated pairings used. One 1/2 point bye if declared before round 1. Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org

TOURNAMENTS

****SEPTEMBER 25TH-27TH MISSOURI CHESS FESTIVAL** - COLUMBIA**

2009 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT!

- **2009 Missouri Open:** 5SS, G/120. Best Western Columbia Inn, 3100 I-70 Dr. SE, Columbia, MO. **Prizes b/40**: $250-1st Overall + Plaque (Top MO resident earns spot in 2010 Missouri Championship), $120-1st in each M/X, A, B, C, D, E, U1000/Unr. **EF:** $40 by 9/19, $50 on site. Site entries cash only. **Reg:** 10-10:45am. Rounds: Sat-11/3:30/8, Sun-10:30/3. Max one ½-pt bye. MCA General Membership meeting 9:30-10:15am Sun.
- **Missouri State Invitational Championship**: In conjunction with Missouri Open, by invitation only.
  Entry Fee: $40. **Prizes b/20**: $500-1st, $250-2nd, $125-3rd. Eligible participants are as follows:
  - MO Heritage Event winners (St. Louis Open, Greater KC Open, MO Class (M/X), MO Open).
  - Qualifying tournament winners
  - Previous Missouri State Champions (from past 10 years).
  - Missouri 2009 Denker and Polgar representatives.
  - Any Missouri resident rated 2200+ USCF.
  - Complete list of qualified participants available at www.mochess.org/Invitational.htm
- **Missouri Quick Championship:** 4SS, G/29 (QR). **Prizes:** b/20, $75-1st Overall + Plaque, $50-1st U1600. **Reg:** 6:30-7pm Friday. Rounds: 7/8/9/10pm. **EF:** $10 by 9/19, $15 on site.
- **Missouri Bughouse Championship:** 5-Double rounds, G/5. **Prizes:** b/12 teams, $50-1st Team, $30-2nd Team. Plaques awarded to top team. (Both players must be MO residents to receive title.) **Reg:** 8-8:15am Sat. Rounds will be paired as quickly as time allows, ending by 10am. **EF:** $10/team, on site only.
- **Missouri Blitz Championship:** 5SS, G/5 (QR). **Prizes**: $75-1st + plaque, $50-2nd, $25-3rd. **EF:** $10. **Reg:** 8-8:15am Sunday. Rounds will be paired as quickly as time allows, ending by 9:30am.
- **MCA Scholastic:** 5SS, G/30 USCF Rated. **Prizes:** Trophies awarded to top 3 scorers in each section: HS, K-8, K-6, K-3. Play only those in your section. **EF:** $10 by 9/19, $15 on site. **Reg:** 9-10am Saturday. Rounds: 10:30/11:45/1:15/2:30/3:45. Awards Ceremony: 5:15pm.
- In order to receive a Championship title/plaque you must be a Missouri resident. MCA membership required for all events except MCA Scholastic & Bughouse, available on site from $5, O.S.A. **HR:** $69/night, free Wi-Fi & Hot breakfast, 573-474-6161, mention CHESS. **Entries/Info:** Thomas Rehmeier, 5217 Denice Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109. JCChess89@yahoo.com, 573-291-0852.

October 2nd-12th—US Women's Championship: Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis

October 17th—Alexander Alekhine Open - Columbia

November 28th—Thanksgiving Open - St Louis

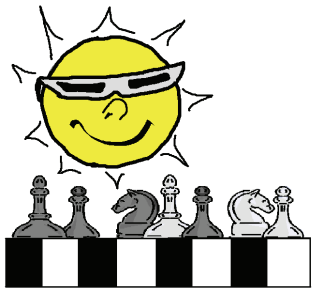
December 26th—Christmas Open - St. Louis

March 19th-21st, 2010—Mid America Open - St. Louis

Visit www.mochess.org/Tournaments.htm for an up-to-date calendar of Missouri chess events.

Scholastic Schedule

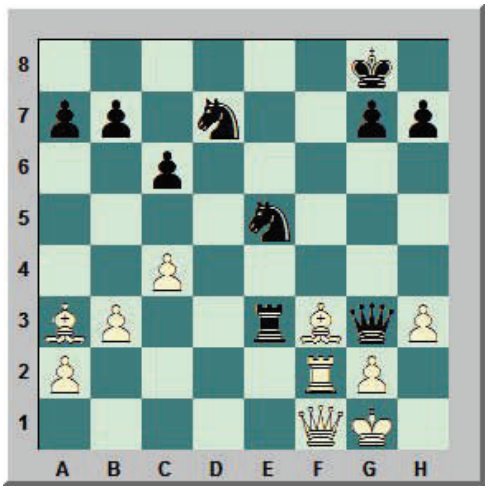
Here's the information for the first scholastic tournament of the 2009-2010 school year:



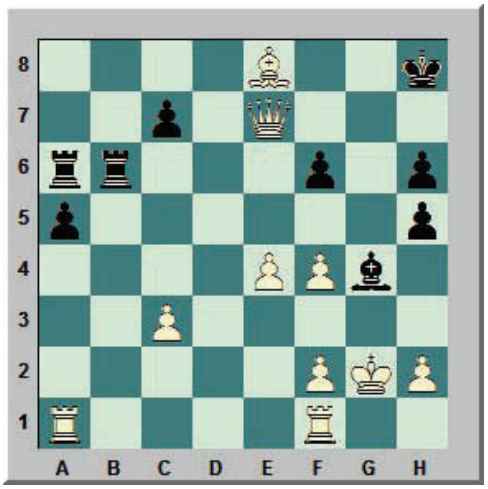
September 26th—MCA Scholastic - Columbia
Five round G/30 USCF rated. Best Western Columbia Inn, 3100 I-70 Drive SE, Columbia, MO 65201 Registration 9-10am, Entry Fee: $10 pre-registered by 9/19, or $15 on site. Round times 10:30, 11:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45. Award Ceremony 5:15. Trophies awarded to top three finishers in each section. Sections: HS, K-8, K-6, K-3. Players only play those in their own section. Free Wi-Fi available for parents in the skittles area.
Entries/info: Thomas Rehmeier, 5217 Denice St., Jefferson City, MO 65109 <JCChess89@yahoo.com>
**The Missouri State Bughouse Championship occurs at the same location at 8am. Scholastic teams welcome. Entry Fee: $10/team.

Be Sure to visit www.Gatewaychess.org for updates on the 2009-2010 scholastic calendar.

Puzzle Time! In each of these puzzles White will sacrifice material to win.



1. Bd5+! cxd5 2. Rf8+ Nxf8 3. Qxf8#



1. Qf8+ Kh7 2. Bg6+! Kxg6 3. Qg8#

New Awards for Scholastic Chess Players!

Starting this year, the Missouri Chess Association will be recognizing scholastic players in the state exemplifying dedication to chess, improvement, and activity with a new set of awards:

Gold Scholastic Player of the Year
Silver Scholastic Player of the Year
Bronze Scholastic Player of the Year

Criteria for awards include but is not limited to: significant improvement in playing ability/strength (rating is not the sole factor), tournament activity, and coach's recommendation.
Coaches: If you have a player who you believe should be considered for recognition, please send a recommendation to the member of Player of the Year Committee from your MCA region:
Matt Angeli (Region I/STL), Ron Luther (Region II/KC), Tim Campbell (Region III/Rest of State)

Awards will be announced in early September and presented at the Missouri Open and Chess Festival.

Recent Games from Missouri Players

Queen's Fianchetto Defense
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Nathan Swinger (1952)
B: Blythe Buscher (1628)

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bd3 h6 5.Nge2 Bb4 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 Ne7 8.Qg4 g6 9.0-0 Nbc6 10.Be3 d6 11.Qe2 a6 12.f4 f5 13.d5 fxe4 14.Bxe4 exd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Qe7 17.Qf3 Qd7 18.Rae1 0-0-0 19.Bxb6 cxb6 20.Be6 Qxe6 21.Rxe6 Nd4 22.Qc3+ Kd7 23.Rxd6+ Kxd6 24.Rd1 Ke7 25.Rxd4 Rc8 26.Qe3+ Kf8 27.Qe5 Rh7 28.Rd6 Rf7 29.Rf6 Rd8 30.Rxf7+ Kxf7 31.Qc7+ Kf8 32.Qxd8+ Kf7 33.Qc7+ Kf6 34.Qxb7 b5 35.g4 Ke6 36.Qc6+ Kf7 37.f5 h5 38.Qxg6+ Ke7 39.g5 b4 40.Qc6 bxa3 41.Qb7+ Kf8 42.g6 Ke8 43.f6 axb2 44.Qc8# 1-0

Colle System
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Thomas R. Rehmeier (1776)
B: Vairam Arunachalam (1542)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.c4 e6 5.Qb3 b6 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bb5 Bxf3 9.Nxf3 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 0-0 12.Bc6 Rc8 13.Bb7 Rb8 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Qxd5 Qe7 16.Qc6 Rbc8 17.0-0 Nf6 18.Rac1 Rfd8 19.Qb7 a5 20.Nc4 Rb8 21.Qc6 Nd5 22.a3 Rbc8 23.Rfd1 f5 24.Ne5 f4?? 25.e4 Nf6 26.Qc4+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Kg8 28.Nxd8+ Kf8 29.Ne6+ Ke8 30.Qc6+ Kf7 31.Nxf4 Ng4 32.Qd5+ Ke8 33.Qh5+ 1-0

Ruy Lopez
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Mark Johnson (961)
B: Tim Campbell (1393)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nxe5 0-0 8.d3 Qd6 9.Nf3 Ng4 10.Nbd2 f5 11.Nc4 Qe7 12.Bg5 Qe6 13.exf5 Qxf5 14.Qd2 h6 15.Be3 Qh5 16.Bf4 Be6 17.Nce5 Bd6 18.Rae1 Bd5 19.Bg3 Rf6 20.h3 Bxf3 21.hxg4 Bxg4 22.Nxg4 Qxg4 23.Bxd6 cxd6 24.Re4 Qh5 25.Rfe1 Raf8 26.Qe2 Qf7 27.f3 Qxa2 28.b3 Qa5 29.Re8 Qc5+ 30.Kh1 Rf5 31.Rxf8+ Rxf8 32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Qe7 Rf4 34.Qe3 Qh5+ 35.Kg1 Qh4 36.Qf2 Qxf2+ 37.Kxf2 b5 38.Re6 Rf6 39.Rxf6 gxf6 40.Ke3 Kg7 41.Ke4 Kg6 42.b4 Kg5 43.g3 h5 44.d4 d5+ 45.Ke3 f5 46.c3 f4+ 47.Kf2 fxg3+ 48.Kxg3 h4+ 49.Kh3 Kf4 50.Kxh4 Kxf3 0-1

Slav Defense
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Selden Trimble (1916)
B: Ralph Bowman (1506)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bd3 Ne4 7.0-0 Nd7 8.Qc2 Bd6 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Bxe4 11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qc2 Qc7 13.e4 Be7 14.e5 Nd7 15.Bf4 h6 16.Rac1 g5 17.Be3 Nb6 18.Rfd1 Rd8 19.Qe2 Qb8 20.Nd2 Rd7 21.Qh5 Qd8 22.Ne4 Kf8 23.b3 Kg7 24.Rf1 Rf8 25.f4 Rxd4 26.fxg5 Rxe4 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.Rcd1 Qe8 29.Rf3 Rxe3 30.Rxe3 Bc5 31.Rdd3 Bxe3+ 32.Rxe3 Qd8 33.h4 Qd1+ 34.Kh2 Qg4 35.g6 fxg6 36.Rg3 Qf5 37.Rxg6+ 1-0

Reti's Opening
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Bob Holliman (2200)
B: Nathaniel Johnson (1427)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 d5 6.b3 Bd7 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.e3 0-0 10.Nd2 Rc8 11.N2f3 Re8 12.a3 e5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nxe5 Bf5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Rc1 Qd6 17.Nc4 Qe6 18.Nxb6 axb6 19.Re1 Qd6 20.c4 Red8 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Rxc8 Bxc8 24.Qd4 Bf5 25.Rc1 Kf8 26.a4 Ke7 27.b5 Qa3 28.Rc7+ Kf8 29.Qxf6 1-0

King's Indian
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Blythe Buscher (1628)
B: Stephen Easton (1387)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 c5 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 Nxe3 12.Nxd8 Nxd1 13.Kxd1 Raxd8 14.Kd2 Rc8 15.Ke2 f5 16.b3 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Bc6 18.Bxc6 Rxc6 19.Rac1 a5 20.Rhd1 Rc5 21.Rc2 b5 22.Kd3 b4 23.Re1 Rf7 24.g3 Bc3 25.Re3 e5 26.Ke2 d5 27.a3 dxc4 28.axb4 axb4 29.bxc4 Rxc4 30.f3 Rfc7 31.Rd3 b3 32.Rc1 b2 33.Rb1 Bd4 34.f4 Rc1 35.Rxd4 exd4 36.Rxb2 R1c2+ 37.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 38.Kd3 Rg2 39.Kxd4 Rxg3 40.Ke5 Rxh3 41.Ke6 Rf3 42.Ke5 h5 43.Ke4 Rf1 44.Ke5 h4 45.Kf6 Rg1 46.Ke6 h3 47.Ke5 h2 48.Kf6 h1Q 49.Ke5 Qh5+ 50.Ke6 Qf5+ 51.Ke7 Re1+ 52.Kd6 Qd3+ 0-1

Scotch Game
Emanuel Lasker Open
W: Bob Howe (1731)
B: Namit Gaur (1556)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Nd5 7.c4 Nb6 8.Bd3 Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 h6 11.Nd2 d6 12.exd6 cxd6 13.b3 Bd4 14.Bb2 Qf6 15.Bxd4 Qxd4 16.Rad1 Bg4 17.Nf3 Qf6 18.Be2 Rfe8 19.h3 Bh5 20.Nd4 Bg6 21.Qd2 d5 22.cxd5 Nxd5 23.Bf3 Be4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Nxc6 Nf4 26.Nxa7 Rxa7 27.Qd8+ Qxd8 28.Rxd8+ Kh7 29.Rd2 Re2 30.Rfd1 Rxa2 31.Rxa2 Rxa2 32.Rd7 f6 33.h4 Rb2 34.Rb7 Nd3 35.Rb8 Rxf2 36.Rd8 Rd2 37.Kf1 Kg6 38.b4 Kf5 39.b5 Ke4 40.b6 Rb2 41.Re8+ Kf5 42.Rd8 Rb1+ 43.Ke2 Re1+ 44.Kd2 Rb1 45.Rxd3 Rxb6 46.Ke2 Kg4 47.g3 Rb2+ 48.Kf1 Kh3 49.Rd7 Rg2? 50.Rxg7 Rxg3 51.Rh7 Rg6 52.h5 Rg5 53.Rxh6 Kh4 54.Rxf6 Kxh5 ½-½

Modern Defense
Missouri Class Championship
W: Tim Steiner (2050)
B: Ron Luther (2215)

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Be3 c6!? 4.Qd2 d6 [4...d5!?] 5.Nc3 b5 6.h4 h5 7.Nh3 a5 8.Be2?! Nf6 9.f3 Qc7 10.Nf2 Nbd7 11.Nd3? Nb6 12.b3 b4 13.Nd1 Nfd7 14.Rc1 e5 15.dxe5 Finally at move 15 we have our 1st exchange! 15...Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.f4 Bf6 18.Bd4 Nd7 19.Ne3 Qd8 20.0-0 0-0 21.e5? dxe5 22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Rcd1 Be6 24.Qc1 Nf3+ 25.Bxf3 Bxd4µ 26.g3 Qb6 27.Rfe1 Rfe8?! [27...Rad8-+; 27...Rae8-+] 28.Rxd4 Qxd4 29.Bxc6 Rac8 30.Bxe8 Rxe8 31.Kh2 Rc8 32.Qd1 Qf6 33.Rf1 Qe5 34.Qf3 Rc3 At this point he was very low on time. The plan is to position the Bishop on the long diagonal after eliminating any hint of counter-play**. 35.Re1 Kg7 36.Qf4 Qc5 37.Re2 Kh7 38.Re1 Qc6 39.Re2 Qd7 40.Qe5 Qc6 41.Rf2 Qb6 42.Re2 Rc5 43.Qf4 Qb5 44.Re1 Re5 45.Qd4 Bc8 46.Kg1 Qe8 47.Kf2 Bb7 48.Nf5 Rxf5+ 0-1**

Ruy Lopez
Saint Louis Open
W: Jeffery Kovalic (1906)
B: Dennis Humphries (1727)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Bxd4 6.Qxd4 Qf6 7.Qc5 c6 8.Be2 d6 9.Qa3 Ne7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Bd2 Rd8 12.f4 N5g6 13.g3 b5 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Bg4 a6 16.e5 dxe5 17.Ne4 1-0

Orangutan
Saint Louis Open
W: Randy Giminez (1865)
B: Carl Dolson (1454)

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 e6 3.b5 c5 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.e3 Ngf6 6.c4 Bd6 7.d4 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nb6 10.Nbd2 Nxc4 11.Nxc4 Bb4+ 12.Nfd2 Qd5 13.0-0 Qxb5 14.Qb3 Bd7 15.a4 Qg5 16.Qxb4 Bc6 17.Nd6+ Kd7 18.f3 Rhf8 19.Nxb7 Qd5 20.Ba3 Bxb7 21.Qe7+ Kc6 22.Rfc1+ Kb6 23.Qb4+ Ka6 24.Rc5 Qd8 25.Qb5# 1-0

Slav Defense
Saint Louis Open
W: Dominic Station (867)
B: William Thompson (1645)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bf4 e6 7.Be2 b4 8.Na4 Qa5 9.0-0 Nf6 10.b3 Nxe4 11.bxc4 Be7 12.Qc2 0-0 13.Qxe4 Qxa4 14.Bxb8 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Raxb8 16.Qxc6 Qxc6 17.Bxc6 Rfd8 18.Rfd1 Bf6 19.Rab1 Bxd4 20.Rd2 Kf8 21.Rc2 a6 22.Ba4 Bc5 23.g3 a5 24.h3 Ke7 25. Kg2 Rd3 26.h4 Rbd8 27.Bc6 Rd2 28.Rbb2 Rxc2 29.Rxc2 Rd4 30.Bf3 a4 31.Be2 f5 32.f4 e5 33.h5 Kf6 34.Kf3 g5 35.hxg6 hxg6 36.Ke3 g5 37. fxe5+ Kxe5 38.Rd2 Rxc4+ 39.Kf3 Rc3+ 40.Kg2 Bd4 0-1

Giuoco Piano
Saint Louis Open
W: Paul Yoder (1094)
B: William Nesham (1623)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nxe4 8.Qe2 Qe7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nc3 Bxc3 12.Bxc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qxe2 14.Rxe2 Rxe2 15.Bxe2 d5 16.Rb1 b6 17.Bb5 Ne7 18.Re1 Kf8 19.Ne5 Be6 20.f4 a6 21.Bd3 c5 22.f5 Nxf5 23.Bxf5 Bxf5 24.Rf1 Be6 25.Rb1 cxd4 26.cxd4 b5 27.Rc1 Rc8 28.Rc5 Rxc5 29.dxc5 Ke7 30.Nc6+ Kd7 31.Nb8+ Kc7 32.Nxa6+ Kc6 33.Kf2 Bc8 34.Nb4+ Kxc5 35.a3 Bf5 36.Ke3 g5 37.h3 h5 38.Kd2 Kc4 39.Ke3 d4+ 40.Kf3 Kb3 41.Nc6 Kc3 42.Nb4 d3 43.Ke3 d2 44.Nd5+ Kc2 45.Nb4+ Kc1 46.Na2+ Kb2 47.Kxd2 Kxa2 0-1

Scotch Gambit
Saint Louis Open
W: Sathya Anand (1370)
B: Margaret Hua (1614)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Bb4 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Qc2 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.g3 d6 14.Rfd1 Be6 15.Nd5 c6 16.Ne3 Qf6 17.Rd2 Bh3 18.Bf1 Be6 19.Rad1 Qg6 20.Bg2 d5 21.b4 d4 22.Nc4 Bf6 23.Qc1 Bg4 24.Rf1 h5 25.h4 b5 26.e5 Bxh4 27.Bxc6 Qxc6 28.Rxd4 Bh3 29.Ne3 Qe6 30.Rxh4 Bxf1 31.Qxf1 Qxe5 32.Qh3 g6 33.g4 Rad8 34.gxh5 Rd5 35.h6 Qg5+ 36.Ng4 f6 37.h7+ Kh8 38.Qc3 Rfd8 39.Rh3 Qxg4+ 40.Rg3 Qd1+ 41.Kg2 Qd2 42.Qa1 Kxh7 43.Qh1+ Kg7 44.Qa1 Kg8 45.Rxg6+ Kf7 46.Rg3 Rg5 47.a3 Rxg3+ 48.Kxg3 Rg8+ 49.Kf3 Qd3+ 50.Kf4 0-1

Giuoco Piano
Saint Louis Open
W: Ron Luther (2200)
B: William Nesham (1607)

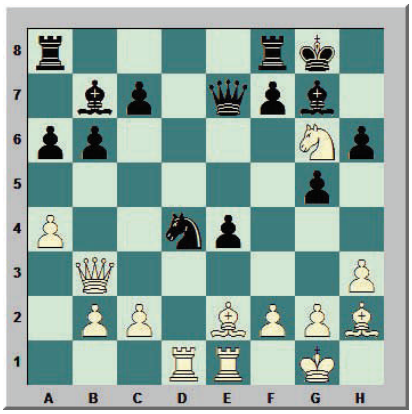
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.c3 Bb6 7.a4 d6 8.b4 a5 9.b5 Ne7 10.Nbd2 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 g5 13.d4 g4 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.hxg4 Nxg4 16.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 17.Kh1 Nf5 18.Bxf7+ Kf8 19.Ng6+ Kxf7 20.exf5 Bxe1 21.Nxh8+ Qxh8 22.Qxe1 Re8 23. Qh4 Kg8 24.Bb2 Qe5 25.Qxh5 Qe1+ 26.Nf1 1-0

Scotch Game
Saint Louis Open
W: Bob Howe (1733)
B: Brad Schlosser (1870)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.c3 Bc5 6.Be3 Nge7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 Bb6 9.0-0 d6 10.Nxc6 Nxc6 11.Bxb6 axb6 12.Nd2 Be6 13.a3 Rfe8 14.Qc2 Qh6 15.f4 Bh3 16.Rae1 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Re7 18.Re2 f5 19.Rfe1 Rae8 20.Qb3+ Kh8 21.Qd5 Qe6 22.Qxe6 Rxe6 23.Kf3 g6 24.exf5 Rxe2 25.Rxe2 Rxe2 26.Kxe2 gxf5 ½-½

Modern Defense
Show Me Classic
W: Jerry Wheeler (2200)
B: Ron Luther (2231)

1.d4 d6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be2 a6 5.a4 b6 Time W-1:18 B-1:13 **6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Bb7 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.0-0 e6 10.h3 Ne7** Time W-1:08 B-:49 **11.Qd2 d5 12.exd5 exd5 13.Rfe1 Nf6 14.Ne5 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4** Time W-:50 B-:39 **16.Bf4 g5 17.Bh2 0-0** Time W-:42 B-:23 **18.Rad1 Nf5 19.Qc3?! Qe7 20.Qb3?! Nxd4!** Time W-:28 B-:19 **21.Ng6 Qc5!-+ 22.Rxd4 Bxd4 23.Rf1 Rfd8 24.c3 Bf6! 25.Bc4 Bd5** Time W-:09:17 B-:14:00 **26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.Bxc7 b5 28.a5 Kg7** I really thought that my opponent, having also been a Master for many years, would resign about here. **29.Nf4 gxf4 30.Bxf4 Bg5 31.Bg3 Qc4 32.Qa3 Rad8 33.h4 Qxf1+! 0-1**



White plays 21. Ng6

The Missouri Chess Bulletin Needs Your Games!!
Submit your latest over the board masterpiece (or any other interesting battle) to bdhowe@yahoo.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

July 9, 2009—Missouri Chess Association - Election Commissioner Report

Gentlemen:

Ballots were counted at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis on Tuesday, July 7. The process was conducted in the presence of several chessplayers, and specifically witnessed by Ed Baur, who kept a separate tally.

Region 1: 15 MCA members cast ballots.

Winners :	Edward Baur	14	Others receiving votes :	Henry Cao	4
	Matt Angeli	7		Molly Nesham	3
	Tim Nesham	6 #			
	Tony Rich	6 #			

#—tie vote, winner to be decided according to the bylaws.

Region 2: 4 MCA members cast ballots.

Winners :	Bob Holliman	4	Others receiving votes :	CJ Armenta	1
	John Sutton	4			
	Ron Luther	3			

Region 3: 12 MCA members cast ballots.

Winners :	Bob Howe	10	Others receiving votes :	Mike Clark	3
	Thomas Rehmeier	10		Joseph Brozovich	1
	Tim Campbell	9		Cody Ruggles	1

Irregularities: None this year. The instructions were more than adequately clear.
Commentary: No concerns at all. This was probably the most trouble-free election in my memory.

I thank my helpers, congratulate the winners, and wish all of our elected officers success in your efforts at chess promotion.

Sincerely,
James A. Davies
Election Commissioner

MCB Material Submissions:

The MCB is Missouri's Official Chess Publication, for and by the members of the Missouri Chess Association. Your help providing material for the MCB will be much appreciated. All submissions become the property of the MCA and the MCA reserves the right to edit any and all material received for publication.

Please send material for the MCB, including but not limited to:

- annotated games (PGN format is preferred, but others can be used)
- articles written by members
- articles from outside sources, with permission for republication
- pictures (with captions please)
- historical items
- scoresheets
- chess related quotes, sayings, and jokes
- or just about anything else you would like to contribute that's appropriate

Submission Deadline for the next issue of the MCB:
OCTOBER 1, 2009

All contributions that are true, fair, and builds goodwill and better friendships among the membership will be published. Thanks so much to all those who have contributed.

Membership & Subscriptions

A one-year membership in the Missouri Chess Association includes a subscription to the quarterly *Missouri Chess Bulletin* chess publication, available in electronic or hard-copy, as well as eligibility to play in MCA-sponsored tournaments, including State Championship titled events.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS	COST (1 YR)
Regular *Ages 25+; Includes hard-copy MCB.*	$12.00
Scholastic *Under 25; Includes hard-copy MCB.*	$8.00
Electronic (Economy) *Provides online MCB access.* ***Email address required.*	$5.00
Family *2 Adults & children under 25* *Provides one hard-copy MCB.*	$18.00
Scholastic Family *All children under 25.*	$12.00

If you would like to join the MCA, please fill out a membership form *(available at mochess.org)* and mail it along with dues to the MCA Membership Coordinator:

Nathaniel Fast
630 Broadway
Jefferson City, MO 65101
<nathanielfast@yahoo.com>

Be sure to include your E-mail address to receive tournament announcements and notices when the new issue of the MCB is released. For more information, please visit *www.mochess.org* and click the 'Join Us' link.

MCA Board Of Directors & Officers 2008-2009

REGION 1—SAINT LOUIS

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Ronald G. Luther: 5205 Country Side Lane, Blue Springs, MO 64015. 816-769-9576. *<ronluther@sbcglobal.net>*

John Sutton (Vice President), 3608 Randall Drive, Independence, MO 64055. 816-478-3946. *<jsutton@indep.k12.mo.us>*

REGION 3—REST OF STATE

Timothy V. Campbell: 6104 E. Sharon Lane, Columbia, MO 65202. 573-696-0082. *<trjcamp@aol.com>*

Bob Howe: 4403 Gage Place, Columbia, MO 65203. 573-445-5458. *<bdhowe@yahoo.com>*

Thomas R. Rehmeier (President): 5217 Denice Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109. 573-291-0852. *<t.rehmeier@yahoo.com>*

Missouri State Champions

9-Time Missouri State Champion
Life Master Ronald G. Luther

MO Open Champion
LM Bob Holliman

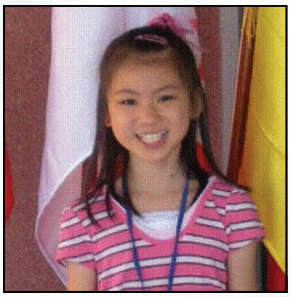
2009 Class Champions

Master — Expert	Ronald G. Luther & Kevin Y. Cao
Class A	Henry Cao
Class B	Steven J. Rand
Class C	Richard Fox
Class D	Alex V. Esposito
Class E	David B. Reitz
Novice	Mark L. Johnson

Denker Champion
Brad Schlosser

Reserve Champion
Jialin Ding

HS Championship Team
Rockhurst High School
Kansas City, Missouri



Polgar Champion
Margaret Hua

Quick Champion
Kevin Cao

Blitz Champion
LM Ronald Luther

Bughouse Champions
Kevin & Henry Cao

For a complete history of Missouri Champions, visit www.mochess.org & click the Champions Link.

Missouri Chess Hall of Fame

Mr. James A. Davies
Inducted: 2000

Mr. Donald Oswald
Inducted: 2001

Mr. Robert M. Jacobs
Inducted: 2002

IM Michael A. Brooks
Inducted: 2003

Chess, like any creative activity, can exist only through the combined efforts of those who have creative talent, and those who have the ability to organize their creative work.

-Mikhail Botvinnik

Mr. Robert H. Steinmeyer
Inducted: 2006

Mr. John V. Ragan
Inducted: 2008

Mr. William H. Wright
Inducted: 2009

Missouri Chess Association
Bulletin Editor
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